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Peace Conference Resumes in Palace of Nations

AU1001201693 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by Milorad Denda from Geneva]

[Text] The conference on peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina, which was adjourned on 4 January, resumed in the Palace of Nations in Geneva shortly before 1600. The nervousness among the reporters awaiting for these negotiations, which are undoubtedly important for peace, was increased by the thick fog yesterday and this morning which delayed the arrival of the delegations and the start of the plenary session.

Alija Izetbegovic's departure from the Palace of Nations before the beginning of the plenary session for the meeting, as he said, of the Islamic Conference in Dakar where Bosnia-Hercegovina will be the first point on the agenda, caused additional confusion and raised questions of actual intentions.

David Owen, cochairman of the conference, tried to reassure the press that there is nothing behind Bosnian President Izetbegovic's departure and that he will return to Geneva from Dakar tomorrow evening. Until then, [Bosnia-Hercegovina Foreign Minister] Haris Silajdzic is authorized to negotiate.

At the plenary session, Cyrus Vance [Conference on Yugoslavia cochairman] stated that the documents he and Owen presented on 4 January represent the basis for fair, just, and lasting peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He was referring, let us recall, to the map of 10 provinces, 10 constitutional principles, and the agreement on peace and and end to hostilities. Vance expects an agreement will be reached on these documents during the continuation of the talks and that the Serbian and the Muslim sides will sign them as the Croatian side has. He reminded the conference participants that a historic responsibility rests on them; peace depends on them.

Since Vance said that Radovan Karadzic [Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina president] had postponed his speech last time, the president of the Serbian Republic presented the view of the Serbian Assembly that the delegation has been empowered to continue the talks, that the documents are acceptable as the basis for further work, and that this work must be careful and meticulous. He expressed readiness for the work to last as long as necessary, saying that the agreement on ending hostilities does not have to wait for a political solution. Regarding the document on military matters, it is acceptable, provided the Croatian Army withdraw from Bosnia-Hercegovina; that the Izetbegovic-Tudjman pact be annulled; and that the delivery of arms to Muslims stop.

Silajdzic insisted again that Bosnia-Hercegovina be accepted as a sovereign and independent state. Only then would the constitutional principles be acceptable to the Muslim side.

President Cosic briefly said that he is in Geneva with his aides in order to reach a peace agreement as soon as possible, an agreement that would respect the rights of all three peoples.

Croatian President Tudjman said that Croatia was interested in an immediate end to the war, repeating that the Army of the Republic of Croatia is not present in Bosnia-Hercegovina except for border areas.

At the plenary session, Karadzic came up with a proposal including eight constitutional principles. The most important stated that Bosnia-Hercegovina should be a composite [slozena] state with the majority of state functions performed at the provincial level. The earlier provision, to prevent the provinces from reaching agreements among one another and with foreign states and organizations, in other words with parent states, is not among the principles. The principles also state that the constitution should acknowledge the three constituent peoples as three constituent units. Other principles are more or less the same as those proposed by Vance and Owen. Karadzic again stressed that Bosnia-Hercegovina should be a state community of three equal, sovereign, and constituent peoples.

So, the Geneva negotiations on Bosnia-Hercegovina continued in an atmosphere characterized by a practical search for consensus on contentious issues. This tone is imposed by cochairmen Vance and Owen, who believe that the gap nevertheless is gradually being reduced.

Bilateral talks are planned for tomorrow. There will be numerous bilateral meetings in order to narrow the differences in views. Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic are expected to arrive here tomorrow. They will join the Yugoslav delegation, which, in addition to delegation head Dobrica Cosic, includes Foreign Minister Ilija Djukic and Svetozar Stojanovic, a special adviser to Cosic.

Vance Opens Session

LD1001194893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1909 GMT 10 Jan 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Geneva, January 10 (TANJUG)—Cyrus Vance, cochairman of the Geneva conference on the former Yugoslavia, on Sunday [10 January] warned the participants in the plenary session of the conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina that historical responsibility was in the hands of the three nations (Moslems, Serbs and Croats) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Yugoslavia and that peace depended on them.

In his opening speech at the conference on Sunday, Vance said he hoped that the representatives of the three nations in Bosnia-Hercegovina would, guided by this responsibility, sign the documents for the map, constitution and peace plan for Bosnia-Hercegovina.

We ask you to sign an agreement on the division of provinces, the constitutional organization and cooperation on humanitarian issues in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Vance said, adding that a peace agreement which contains detailed provisions on monitoring the cessation of hostilities should also be signed.

The peace plan and constitution with the map represent a whole, Vance explained. If all sides agree on changes, either to the Constitution or the map of 10 provinces, the cochairmen will accept them, Vance said. He told the meeting that Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban had already signed both agreements.

Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic agrees with the constitutional principles and part of the peace plan on ending hostilities, but has some reserves as regards the boundaries of the provinces, Vance said. Unlike them, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has his vision of both the Constitution and the map, he added.

Deploring the assasination of Bosnian Moslem Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic, Vance said he had been informed by the Bosnian Moslem Prime Minister Mile Akmacic about the assassination of another government official, Croat Josip Gogava, on January 7. Croatian Radio said that Gogava was killed by Moslems in Sarajevo on December 31, 1992.

Vance said that time has come to put an end to criminal acts and for all sides to turn towards the peace process.

Turajlic, who was being taken by the United Nations peace-keepers for a meeting with 60 Turkish nationals who had landed in a Turkish plane at Sarajevo airport unannounced, was on Friday killed by a Bosnian Serb soldier during a routine check of the U.N. vehicle. The family of the Serbian soldier had been killed by the Moslems in the civil war in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The headquarters of the Army of the Serbian Republic on Sunday sent a letter of protest to the United Nations headquarters in Sarajevo about the incident, accusing the U.N. forces of abusing their mission at the airport, which the Serbian side ceded for humanitarian purposes, not for transport of Moslem mercenaries.

Izetbegovic Leaves Talks

AU1001150393 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Geneva, Jan 10 (AFP)—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic left Geneva on Sunday [10 January] before the latest round of peace talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina could begin but left his foreign minister behind to negotiate.

Izetbegovic left for Dakar where he was to address representatives of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference on Monday. He said he would be back here Monday night and ready to enter the talks on Tuesday.

But the Bosnian leader confirmed that his delegation might cut short their stay here if they do not get adequate guarantees from the Serbs that any peace settlement would guarantee the Bosnian republic's sovereignty.

Izetbegovic told reporters as he left that Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, the number two in the delegation, had full authority to negotiate in his absence.

The talks had been delayed by the late arrival of the delegations from Belgrade because of fog at Geneva airport.

Conditions Return on Serb Concessions

LD1001181693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by Nada Alisa from Zagreb]

[Excerpts] Talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina have continued in Geneva. Before joint talks, cochairmen Vance and Owen held separate talks with Alija Izetbegovic and with the Croatian delegation headed by Croatian President Tudjman. [passage omitted]

Everyone is expecting to hear Slobodan Milosevic tomorrow. In Geneva everyone remembers that a year ago Milosevic was the one who decided between peace and war in Croatia, so everyone is worried about his plans for the fate of Bosnia.

It is also interesting that President Izetbegovic decided to go to Dakar to attend the Islamic conference meeting tomorrow. If Milosevic accepts the Vance-Owen plan, Izetbegovic will return to Geneva and continue the negotiations. The president of Bosnia-Hercegovina stated that he would not return to Geneva unless Milosevic accepts the plan.

Karadzic Submits New Proposal

LD1001204393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1943 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Geneva, 10 Jan (TANJUG)—At the plenary session of the Geneva conference today, Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, submitted a new eight-point proposal for the constitutional arrangement of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Under the proposal Bosnia-Hercegovina will be defined as a composite state with its provinces in charge of the majority of state functions. Full freedom of movement across Bosnia-Hercegovina will be partly ensured with corridors under international control.

The Bosnia-Hercegovina constitution will provide for three constituent nations as three constituent units and for a group of others.

A constitutional agreement would regulate all issues of vital importance for any of the three constitutent nations. Such a constitution would be adopted by a consensus of the constituent nations, with none of them having the right to veto government's activities.

Point five of Karadzic's constitutional proposal refers to the relationship between the central authorities and the provinces. Under this point, the provinces and the central authorities would consist of democratically elected legislative bodies, elected officials and independent courts. The central authorities would be set up by proportional representation on the basis of either an agreed or a qualified majority. The Presidency would comprise three elected representatives of each of the three constituent peoples. Elections would be supervised by the United Nations, the CSCE, and the EC.

Point six in the constitutional proposal refers to the constitutional court which, according to the Serb delegation's proposal, would include one representative of each of the three constituent peoples. The constitutional court would be authorized to resolve disputes between the central government and any province or between the central government's organs. The appointment of a certain number of foreign experts to the constitutional court is also envisaged at the proposal of each constituent people on an equal basis.

According to point seven in the constitution, Bosnia-Hercegovina should be gradually demilitarized under UN and EC supervision. The proposal also includes a provision by which the constitution secures compliance with the highest standard of human rights.

This proposed constitution, which defines Bosnia-Hercegovina as a complex state, is meeting intense opposition at this stage of the negotiations.

Participants Discuss Vance-Owen Plan

LD1001193793 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Video report from Geneva, including recorded comments by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, Bosnia Croat leader Mate Boban, and Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic]

[Text] [Reporter] How can the contradictory stands of Muslims and Serbs be reconciled? Vance and Owen managed to make only small progress. The Serbs have not yet accepted two of the 10 principles for the Bosnian constitution. Croats believe it is possible that others will also sign the cochairmen's proposals.

[Tudjman] It seems to me, however, that with little effort standpoints could come closer, and the general principles could even be accepted before we pass onto the discussion of details.

[Boban] The Serbs have justified their demand to postpone [the conference] because of the principles. They agreed to eight principles, while in connection with the remaining two principles they want to implement the constituent status of the nations, which to a large agrees with our objections to the amendment to the Bosnia-Hercegovina constitution. I think that there are no major reasons not to continue with bilateral and plenary meetings in order to reconcile the different stands.

[Tudjman] The Croatian delegation from Bosnia accepted the general principles. The Bosnian delegation was also in favor of the general principles, but it insists on the differences between its own and the Serb standpoints. The Serb delegation did not accept two points. But it could be said that the Serb side's proposals came closer to the general principles.

[Silajdzic] The aggressor side is still rejecting the principles. Thank you.

Vance: Differences 'Not Unsurpassable'

LD1001224293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2156 GMT 10 Jan 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Geneva, Jan 10 (TANJUG)—Cochairman of the conference on former Yugoslavia Cyrus Vance said that the differences voiced at the resumption of the Geneva talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina on Sunday [10 January] were not unsurpassable and that they were actually being narrowed down.

The second round of talks between the leaders of the warring Bosnian peoples (Moslems, Serbs and Croats), mediated by conference cochairmen Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, began in Geneva today. Yugoslavia's President Dobrica Cosic and Croatia's President Franjo Tudjma are also taking part in the talks.

The greatest obstacle is the Serbian side's request for a state within a state, Vance said at a news conference after the plenary session. He said this request would again be the subject of their talks.

Lord Owen said that Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic expressed reservations about the Vance-Owen document on Bosnia's constitutional arrangement and peace agreement and that he proposed eight new constitutional principles which were discussed by a diligent comparison of them with the Vance-Owen proposal.

The Vance-Owen plan anticipates the division of Bosnia-Hercegovina into ten provinces enjoying great autonomy.

Lord Owen said the talks still have not covered the setting of the provinces' boundaries by referendum. He said it would be difficult to call a referendum in a country in which war and ethnic cleansing is raging.

Lord Owen said he was convinced Serbia's President Milosevic, who joins the talks on Monday, would help narrow the gap.

Vance rejected a journalist's opinion that the talks have reached a cul de sac and said it was too early to make predictions, let alone say the talks will fail.

Lord Owen told journalists that the Bosnian Serb delegation apologized to the Moslem side for the assassination of Bosnian Moslem Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic.

Turajlic was killed by a local Serb troop during a routine control of a U.N. vehicle on Friday. The blue helmets were taking Turajlic to meet 60 Turkish mercenaries who arrived at Sarajevo airport on board a Turkish plane.

Most of the family of the Serb fighter, who killed Turajlic, was murdered by Moslems during this civil war in Bosnia.

Regarding Izetbegovic's departure from Geneva to take part in the Dakar Islamic countries' summit, Vance only said that the Bosnian Moslem leader promised he would return on Geneva.

Mediators Press for Agreement

AU1101105293 Paris AFP in English 1043 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Geneva, Jan 11 (AFP)—Efforts to bring peace to Bosnia-Hercegovina resumed Monday [11 January] with mediators saying they were pressing for agreement on the key issue of the republic's sovereignty by the end of the day.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic arrived here Monday to take part in the discussions, which resumed on a bilateral basis after a round of talks among the three warring parties on Sunday.

Chairmen of the peace talks sponsored by the United Nations and the European Community have said a main stumbling block was the refusal of Bosnian Serbs to give up their dream of a Serbian state within Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Bosnian Serbs' leader Radovan Karadzic met with the Yugoslav Federal President Dobrica Cosic and later had talks with the conference cochairmen Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

"We are pushing forward to have an agreement today on the constitutional points," said the mediators' spokesman Fred Eckhard. There were no immediate plans for another plenary session.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, who left Geneva on Sunday to attend an Islamic meeting in the Senegalese capital of Dakar, was due back here Monday night. His foreign minister, Haris Silajdzic, filled in for him.

The chairmen have put forward a 10-point peace accord including a guarantee of Bosnia's undivided sovereignty. The Croats signed and the Bosnian government agreed on the principles but not the proposed map of 10 provinces.

The talks had been billed as a last chance for a negotiated settlement to the nine-month-old civil war embroiling Serbs, Croats and Moslems before the West considers stepping up its military intervention.

French Prime Minister Roland Dumas caused a new stir here by announcing in Paris on Sunday that France was ready to act alone if necessary to shut down by force the detention camps in Bosnia.

A spokesman for the Bosnian Serbs branded the announcement a ploy to satisfy domestic French opinion ahead of legislative elections due in March.

He said the Serbs were ready to free their prisoners if the other sides reciprocated, but warned that the French would have a tough fight if they moved in by force.

Sides Begin Bilateral Talks

LD1101110993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1043 GMT 11 Jan 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Geneva, January 11 (TANJUG)—Bilateral talks opened on Monday [11 January] morning in Geneva between the delegations of the warring Bosnian sides (Moslems, Serbs and Croats) with mediators in the Geneva talks on the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Consultations between the delegations of the Bosnian Serbs with Finnish diplomat Martti Ahtisaari on the constitutional principles for Bosnia-Hercegovina were also under way.

At the plenary session on Sunday, the Serb side proposed eight new principles envisaging that Bosnia-Hercegovina be a state composed of three constituent Bosnian peoples and that its provinces be internationally recognized.

It was expected that the Bosnian Serbs' delegation on Monday morning inform cochairmen of the conference on former Yugoslavia Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen about the proposal for demarcation of the provinces of the three constituent Bosnia-Hercegovina peoples.

The proposal, as learned, contains five points. One of them envisages holding a referendum within three months on cessation of the hostilities and signing of agreement on boundaries.

Milosevic Arrives in Geneva

LD1101122793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1139 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Geneva, 11 Jan (TANJUG)—The presidents of Montenegro and Serbia, Momir Bulatovic and Slobodan Milosevic, and their associates arrived in Geneva today at the invitation of the cochairmen of the conference on former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and David Owen. They are expected to join the talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina this afternoon.

The arrival of Slobodan Milosevic is awaited in the Palais des Nations with special interest. Various speculations can be heard about the Serbian president's role in the continuation of the negotiations on the future constitutional setup of Bosnia-Hercegovina and peace in that former Yugoslav Republic. The most mentioned possibility is that Milosevic might influence Radovan Karadzic to accept and sign the two basic documents relating to the constitutional set-up and peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

While waiting for Bulatovic and Milosevic's arrival in the Palais des Nations, the consultations between the conference chairmen and the negotiating parties have continued. Attention is focused on the latest proposal by Radovan Karadzic concerning Bosnia-Hercegovina's constitutional setup, presented in eight points.

Alija Izetbegovic, who yesterday left for Dakar to attend an Islamic conference, is also expected to arrive in Geneva.

Bosnians May End Participation

AU1001133793 Paris AFP in English 1335 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Geneva, Jan 10 (AFP)—The Bosnian Government might cut short peace talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina here Sunday [10 January] if it does not get Serbian assurances on the republic's sovereignty, Bosnian officials said.

Miro Lazovic, president of the Bosnian parliament, said President Alija Izetbegovic came to Geneva to wait for Serbian answers to his demands, notably that Bosnia's sovereignty be guaranteed in any settlement.

"We will decide whether to continue to participate in the meeting according to the response," said Muhamed Filipovic, diplomatic adviser to the Bosnian delegation.

The two made their remarks as U.N. and European Community mediators were to reconvene the talks adjourned last Monday with the sovereignty issue a key sticking point.

Izetbegovic flew in Sunday for the talks here a day after announcing that his government would suspend negotiations to protest the assassination of its deputy premier Friday by a Serbian militiaman.

Lazovic and Filipovic said the Bosnian delegation decided its strategy for the negotiations at a meeting Sunday morning.

Izetbegovic has also set as a condition for continuing the talks moves by the Serbs to put their heavy weapons under U.N. control.

Izetbegovic, UN Officials Discuss Peace Talks

LD0901222393 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Interviews with Bonsia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic; General Philippe Morillon, commander in chief of the UN Protection Force in Bosnia-Hercegovina; and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali by studio announcer Bruno Masure and reporters Philippe Harrouard and Francois Cornet, interspersed with correspondents' reports; Izetbegovic, live in the studio, speaks in Serbo-Croatian with superimposed French translation; Morillon speaks live by telephone from Sarajevo; Butrus-Ghali remarks were recorded in the Elysee on 9 January]

[Excerpts] [Masure] Welcome to our country, sir, and thank you very much for being here in the studio. Right away, before speaking in a minute of politics and diplomacy, I would like to ask your reaction as a human being to the death of a man who was one of your closest associates [Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Turajlic].

[Izetbegovic] I am, of course, terribly shaken. I knew Mr. Turajlic very well. He was a marvellous man; he was not a politician. He was one of our best known representatives in the world of economics. I would like to express all my sympathy to his family on behalf of the Bosnian state, for a person who has played a leading role in the economy of our country.

[Masure] We will return presently to the continuation of the Geneva conference. But straight away I would like to ask you another question: General Morillon is in Sarajevo now; he can hear you. I would like to ask you a precise question: What in your opinion is the degree of responsibility of the UN troops on the ground in this drama?

[Izetbegovic] I think, of course, that the responsibility... [pauses] Clearly, responsibility for this exists, as they did not defend Mr. Turajlic's life, but here the question of the nature of the blue berets' mandate in Bosnia arises. We must use this case in point so that we can precisely define the mandate of the UN presence in Bosnia. They must be able to use their weapons if they are attacked during convoy missions.

[Masure] Thank you, sir. We'll return to the essence of the case, the diplomatic problems raised by this latest drama presently with Philippe Harrouard.

Straight away, live from Sarajevo, as I said earlier, is General Morillon, the commander in chief of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] in Bosnia, whom the Bosnian Government this morning officially designated as being responsible for the death of the Bosnian deputy prime minster. General, thank you for speaking to us. My first, very direct question is: How do you feel this evening? Do you feel that you have failed personally?

[Morillon] Yes. Yes, of course. The simple fact that Mr. Turajlic was assassinated despite the protection that we

offered him can only be seen as a failure. That said—I have explained this at length—the circumstances that led to this tragedy were completely unpredictable, and I totally support my subordinates' actions in this matter. In this situation it is up to us to apply the rules set by the Security Council and the United Nations. These rules are wise. Our role is that of mediator, and to carry out this role we must be perceived as impartial.

[Masure] Speaking of this, this evening's LE MONDE is headlined "United Nations Discredited." So on a purely political front, do you, who have been in the field for many months, think that the presence of the blue berets [UN troops in Bosnia-Hercegovina] is still credible?

[Morillon] Yes, of course, for two reasons. The first is that we are here primarily to forward the humanitarian aid needed for the survival of the populations at risk, and when we took on this mission Jose Maria Mendiluce, the special envoy of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], and I—and I have the job of assisting him—told you that 800,000 people are displaced and their lives are in danger in the center of Bosnia alone. At the moment, not only in this region but in Sarajevo itself, humanitarian aid is continuing to arrive by the tonne. Second, with the role of mediator, which compliments our humanitarian actions, we have respected rules that are very precise and wise. I reiterate this as any clash would bring our very role as mediator into question.

[Masure] General, of course we all have in mind another assassination in Sarajevo in 1914. You alluded to this yourself. Do you not fear that this will encourage the extremists on all sides and the eternal cycle of repression and provocation?

[Morillon] Of course. The shock has been felt just as badly by everyone here and not just by me but by the whole population, because this fragile hope that we have for the success of the Geneva negotiations procedure could, may have, and in fact was brought into question by this tragedy.

[Masure] Thank you, General. We understand that this is an emotional issue for you. We are now going to talk about the diplomatic developments of this affair with the Bosnian president, who is still with us. But first of all let us see what happened in Paris today.

[Unidentified reporter] [passage omitted] Butrus Butrus-Ghali found his meetings to be very constructive today. Naturally, the UN secretary general strongly condemned the murder of the Bosnian deputy prime minister. He hopes that this incident, which he described as tragic, will not eventually question the continuation of the peace conference on Yugoslavia:

[Begin recording] [Butrus-Ghali] Peace must be given a last opportunity; a peaceful solution to this conflict must be found. [end recording]

[Unidentified reporter] Minutes later Francois Mitterrand received the Bosnian president—a highly symbolic gesture since Alija Izetbegovic was on a private visit to France and he was received at the Elysee as a head of state and as a war leader. The meeting was long; the talks lasted for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Later in the afternoon Alija Izetbegovic received the support of French politicians. Following their talks with the Bosnian president, Francois Leotard, Brice Lalonde, and Laurent Fabius all expressed their support for lifting the embargo on the sale of weapons to Bosnia.

[Begin recording] [Fabius] You know how Bosnia is under attack from all sides, so the proper end is peace, but to reach peace it is sometimes and even often necessary to have the means to defend oneself.

[Leotard] The embargo as it is designed today, in particular by France, is unjust. When one says, when President Mitterrand says, war should not be added to war, it means in fact that those who are under attack are being condemned. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Masure] Mr. President, you decided to suspend these negotiations but a suspension does not mean an interruption, does it?

[Izetbegovic] Naturally, this does not mean an interruption, but I consider that the Bosnian Government has set a condition for the continuation of these talks, namely that the safety of convoys under UN protection should be properly ensured. The tragedy that took place yesterday is not a coincidence—it simply illustrates the difficulties of ensuring the success of these humanitarian convoys. For instance, humanitarian aid convoys to eastern Bosnia very seldom reach their destination. Such a situation cannot continue since it cannot ensure the supply of food where it is needed, the lives of hundreds of thousands are threatened, whole populations are starving in Bosnia-Hercegovina because food supplies do not reach their destination. So this is one of the conditions for continuing the negotiations.

[Masure] Before letting Philippe Harrouard ask more questions I would like to say that General Morillon can hear us in Sarajevo and can naturally intervene live in this bulletin.

[Harrouard] Do you still believe that there is the least chance for the Geneva negotiations, the peace negotiations?

[Izetbegovic] I do believe in them, I believe in them, but I believe that the negotiations cannot be continued if elementary things are not ensured, like supplies, food supplies without hindrance, humanitarian convoys under UN supervision, supplies of all the things affecting Sarajevo. Sarajevo is completely isolated. I think these conditions must be fulfilled before the negotiations can be continued.

[Harrouard] There is a French initiative demanding that Sarajevo should become an open town. Does it enjoy your support?

[Izetbegovic] Yes, I support it, but no one can explain to us what this expression, open town, means. It is a pretty expression, but no one has told me what it means.

[Harrouard] No weapons, no fighters.

[Izetbegovic] Yes, this would be acceptable insofar as we could guarantee the withdrawal of artillery forces from all positions. It would be a real betrayal if we simply contented ourselves with solving the problem of Sarajevo while leaving the other areas aside.

We demand that the artillery forces should be gathered together, and that these weapons as a whole should be handed over to the United Nations. This is a basic condition if the crisis is to be resolved.

[Masure] I think General Morillon, who is still with us live, can hear us, and wants to come in. General?

[Morillon] Just to say that indeed within a tripartite military group we are fully involved in the mandate I was given. We have had long discussions and drawn up a draft agreement for the seige of Sarajevo to be lifted, that is to say the opening, under UN supervision, of the main roads leading to Zenica, Mostar, and Zvornik. We have also put forward very broadly a demilitarization plan for the airport zone, where the tragedy happened yesterday. Finally, we have drawn up a demilitarization plan for Sarajevo.

An agreement has been found, but at the level of military leaders, and of course its application is subject to a decision by the government authorities.

[Harrouard] Would you like to intervene, sir, and have a dialogue, or do you have a message for General Morillon, who is in your country now, in Sarajevo?

[Izetbegovic] I have no doubt of Mr. Morillon's good will. But up to now we have not been able to get all the elements of the agreement, so there is the problem of electricity, of power, of providing food and water for the town. So the situation in the town is truly disastrous. Sometimes there is power in the town, and then at other times the power fails.

[Masure] Mr. President, demilitarization is being spoken of and yet you spoke with President Mitterrand of a partial lifting of the arms embargo, to have weapons to be able to defend yourselves. What did the president answer?

[Izetbegovic] I defined our demands. We do not want offensive weapons, we do not want fighting, but we want a limited quantity of weapons of a defensive nature. I think that President Mitterrand understood this request. He said that this idea is very interesting and that it will be studied. So here there is clearly a certain evolution in the French perception of events as they unroll.

[Masure] Mr. President, we will have to end this interview. What do you expect from the West, and more precisely from the French? I believe that you would like to address an appeal to all the French people who are listening to you now.

[Izetbegovic] Exactly. I have prepared a short appeal and I would be extremely glad if I could read it. I shall do so in French, so that it can be immediately understood by all French citizens.

[Izetbegovic continues in French] Frenchmen and Frenchwomen, you are the people of freedom and of human rights. I am the representative of a people, the Bosnian people, who have been gathering Catholics, Muslims, Jews, and Orthodox for centuries. These people are the victim of a terrible aggression which, I know, you find appalling. You helped us with the dispatch of foodstuffs and medicine, but this will not be sufficient to end the massacre. Only intervention by your country and by democratic countries can save us. Don't worry, we do not lack men, we do not need soldiers, we need weapons. I said this to the main political leaders of your country. I stressed it to your president, Francois Mitterrand. He is a generous and courageous man; I hope he listened to me. I know that France, faithful to its traditions of freedom, will not let us die. Thank you.

[Masure] Thank you, sir, for coming to France-2's studio to appeal to the French and to answer all our questions. Are you going back to Sarajevo very soon? Are you going to stop over in Geneva after all?

[Izetbegovic] I do indeed mean to stop in Geneva, but I think I will go home to Sarajevo in two or three days.

[Masure] Thank you very much, sir.

When he came out of the Elysee at midday, the UN secretary general expressed his hope of seeing the famous Geneva conference starting again very soon. He confirmed this not long ago to Francois Cornet.

[Cornet] Do you believe, sir, that with this killing [of Turajlic] the United Nations is now discredited?

[Butrus-Ghali] No, it is a thing that happens. We must continue our diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

[Cornet] But do you think it is acceptable that peacekeepers should not intervene when the life of a passenger in an armored vehicle is at stake, and an important passenger, too? Do you find it acceptable that they should not intervene, as a case of legitimate defense, for example?

[Butrus-Ghali] You often have slip ups and accidents, and these chance mishaps, however serious they may be, must not prevent or diminish the efforts of the United Nations toward negotiations and dialogue.

[Cornet] You have always been against military intervention. If there is no agreement in Geneva, will you revise your position?

[Butrus-Ghali] I am not against military intervention. I would like to give peace and negotiations the maximum chance. The day that negotiations fail to give a result, at that moment I will submit a report to the Security Council so that it can assume its responsibilities. But I think that for the moment we must continue to negotiate.

[Cornet] How long will you wait?

[Butrus-Ghali] It is hard to answer. The only thing that matters is that you have to be patient and persevere, you need political imagination, and to continue to negotiate. In spite of the difficulties, in spite of the collective emotion—which is completely justified—about the horrors that are happening in Bosnia, we have to continue to negotiate.

Karadzic Welcomes Offer on Release of POW's

LD1101100193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0222 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Geneva, 11 Jan (TANJUG)—President Radovan Karadzic of the Serb Republic [of Bosnia-Hercegovina], sent a letter to French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas thanking him for the help offered in releasing civilian prisoners from camps in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In his letter to Dumas, Karadzic "welcomes the about face in the French policy toward Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina." At the same time Karadzic warned Dumas that unilateral military intervention, if not carefully planned, could be a threat to both the POW's [prisoners of war] and the Geneva peace talks.

The Serb Republic president went on to quote Dumas' statement on the release of civilians from camps in Bosnia-Hercegovina—"a welcome piece of news for these unfortunate people"—especially if one bears in mind that the Red Cross announced last week that more Bosnian Serbs than Croats and Muslims were detained in the camps.

Given that up to now the Red Cross has had no success in releasing the Serbs, Karadzic stressed in his letter to Dumas that "the Serbs will welcome France's aid."

President Calls for Redefinition of UN Mandate

AU0901175193 Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Paris, Jan 9 (AFP)—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said here Saturday [10 January] that the Bosnian Government had decided to "suspend" ongoing negotiations in Geneva to protest the killing Friday of Vice Premier Hakija Turajlic.

The negotiations were to have resumed Sunday.

"I have just learned that the Government of Bosnia-Hercegovina has decided to suspend the negotiations in Geneva as a sign of protest for the assassination of the vice-premier," Izetbegovic said.

Turajlic was shot dead Friday by a Serbian militiaman as he sat in a UN armoured car that was bringing him into Sarajevo from the airport.

"The consultations are still continuing and at this stage I am unsure whether I will be there personally," he said, speaking of the ongoing Geneva talk process.

Izetbegovic said the killing of Turajlic "demonstrates the limit of the mandate of UN troops in Bosnia-Hercegovina."

"They should be given the capability to defend convoys—I mean to defend them with arms," he said.

A "redefinition of the UN mandate along these lines would "no doubt be a precondition for the resumption of the talks" by the Bosnian Governemnt, he added. [quotation marks as received]

Speaking at a press conference in a hotel in Paris where he was invited by an international group of intellectuals, Izetbegovic appealed for "limited military intervention" in his country.

"We do not ask for the presence of ground troops," he said.

"We do not want other people to come and die for us. We have enough of our own youths who are willing to die for their country, but they are unarmed.

"We only seek a limited quantity of defensive weapons—is this too much to ask?" he said.

Izetbegovic said that one of the preconditions for Bosnian participation in the Geneva talks was that all heavy weaponry be placed under UN control.

He said all parties appeared to back this request, but expressed doubts that this was really the case.

"If such an agreement is signed, (on heavy weapons) and not respected, we will seek limited military intervention," he said.

"Believe me this is the only way to end the fighting and halt the propagation of the conflict to Kosovo and even Macedonia," he added.

His "message," he said, was "do not allow a new Munich, when in 1938 we witnessed the treason of a small country—Czechoslovakia—do not let this happen again—although I do not pesonally believe that history repeats itself."

"Help us. Help us help ourselves," he said.

Izetbegovic also paid homage to Turajlic, whose death he described as "not only a personal loss, but the death of a man who gave himself selflessly to Bosnia Hercegovina—a man who was not a politician".

Groups of Bosnian demonstrators gathered outside the hotel to demonstrate in favour of the president who met with French politicians, including former Premier Michel Rocard, and members of the group of intellecutals who sponsored his visit, among them Spanish author Jorge Semprun, Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa and French author Bernard Henry Levy.

Serreqi Urges Intervention if War Extends to Kosovo

NC1001220393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2143 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Albanian Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi has urged the international community to intervene to solve the problems of the Albanian majority in Yugoslavia's Kosovo region. He warned that if the war in Bosnia extends to Kosovo, Albania and other states will intervene to defend the defenseless Albanians in the region, who represent 90 percent of its population.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM to be published on 11 January, Serreqi said Albania is trying to reach a peaceful solution of the Kosovo problem through dialogue between the legitimate Albanian representatives and the Serbian government under UN auspices. He said Albania has proposed that the Kosovo region be disarmed and that there be a permanent UN presence to keep security and peace before such a dialogue between the Albanians and Serbs can be held.

Serreqi called on the international community to prevent the fighting from spreading to Kosovo by applying strong pressure on the Serbian government to implement the ban on flights over Bosnia.

On Albania's recent admission to the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], Serreqi said the ICO is the biggest international organization after the United Nations and that Albania's joining it does not threaten neighboring states. He said Albania's Constitution stipulates that it is a secular state. Our joining the ICO is in line with the provisions of the Constitution.

Regarding the recognition of Macedonia, Serreqi said Albania's recognition of Macedonia's independence depends on its recognition of the rights of Albanians living there, who represent 40 percent of the population of Macedonia.

Serreqi Reviews 1992 Foreign Policy Achievements

AU0801141693 Tirana ATA in English 0919 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tirana, January 8 (ATA)—"The Albanian diplomacy has already created a new physiognomy, which will keep chrystalizing during 1993. In the course of 9 month time, 1992, it radically changed compared to the almost half a century period of the dictatorship," Albanian Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi stated at the beginning of the press conference. "The foreign policy of the Albanian state is freed from the ideological prejudices, it is open and has in its foundations two basic elements: the solution of the national issue of all national interest and transition from dictatorship to democracy, from a centralized economy onto market economy," said Mr. Serreqi.

He dealt with the difficulties facing the activity of the Foreign Ministry, the performance of the reform in this ministry, which has been one of the most politicized institutions. He said that the reform is being carried out without considering party prejudices, judging from the professional skill and the attitude of the employees to the reform.

While presenting an overview of the Albanian diplomacy during the 9-month period, Minister Serreqi said that the main goal has been and is the integration of Albania to Europe, its increasing presence in the UN, CSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Community, which supports the economic reform in Albania. "We need friends and allies," said Mr. Serreqi, mentioning in this context Albania's regional integration and broader. [sentence as received] He pointed to the good relations with Italy, Germany, Greece, Turkey, and other countries which will develop in the future. "We will devote particular attention to the relations with the U.S., as the only last superpower of this century, which is a determinant economic and political factor."

Dealing with Albania's membership to the Islamic Conference, he said that this was a necessity to turn our eyes on to the East. This was not at all a change of the political pivot of the democratic government. He said that the Albanian foreign policy devotes a great attention to the relations with Russia, China and the other permanent members of the Security Council.

The Albanian foreign minister answered the questions of the reporters. Concerning the question on the danger of fundamentalism in Albania, he responded that "in Albania there is no social base, there is no stratum of the population or possibility inclined to it."

In regard to the Kosovo issue, Mr. Serreqi said that "It is important to us to prevent war and bloodshed in Kosovo owing to our policy, to prevent the extension of conflict from Bosnia-Herzegovina to other countries and then according to the international charters, the say of legitimate representatives of Kosovo to determine its definite status which should be acceptable to all the parties. A success of our diplomacy is the internationalization of this issue as never before".

Responding to a question in regard to the relations between Albania and Greece, Mr. Serreqi said that their different attitudes to the crisis in former Yugoslavia pose no hindrance to the relations between them. In conclusion he dwelt on the Cam [ethnic group] problem, the status of Albanian economic emigrants in Greece, the propaganda campaign of North Epirote circles, which were discussed in length during his recent visit to Greece.

Former Supreme Court Chairman Arrested

AU0901160893 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1430 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] An announcement sent to the ATA by the Tirana District Procurator's Office states that following the

investigations on the criminal case against the former high-level party and state leaders of the former single-party state, on 8 January 1993 the Tirana District Procurator's Office filed charges against and arrested the defendant Aranit Cela, former chairman of the Supreme Court. His arrest was carried out because, in collaboration with the other defendants, systematically and for a long time, this defendant has willingly committed actions in open opposition to the constitution, laws, and decrees that were in power at the time of the single-party state, which resulted in the violation of the basic rights and freedoms of citizens and their families and other grave consequences.

Bodies Found in Tirana Believed Executed

AU0801191693 Tirana ATA in English 0925 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tirana, January 8 (ATA)—In the Cadaver of Tirana 10 corps were found who were shot behind the head. They are not identified because they were not associated with the respective documents. It is known neither their names, nor the time and reason why were they shot. TV and press carry a lot of information on this enigma. The TV chroniclers interviewed some working people of the Tirana Cadaver who provided not quite accurate testimony. The physician of the Cadaver, a trusted man of the communist regime who was interviewed by the TV, gave no concrete reply. He said that these corps belonged to the 1960's. The same physician in July 1992 demanded to clean the Cadaver's wells at a time when they were never cleaned in the course of 50 years time. Meanwhile a man who did not accept to identify said that corps were brought here six years ago.

The newspaper RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE in an article entitled Another Criminal Act of the Party of Labour of Albania devoted to this event said that it is difficult to set the exact time when these corps were secretly brought in the cadaver being not associated with the necessary documentation. This was top secret. Nevertheless expertise threw light on the time of these murders. Were they committed in a day or separately and how long ago? Perhaps do they belong to July 2, 1990, when the communist dictatorship perpetrated murders but they were kept secret. Do they belong to a more ancient time, to the time of Enver Hoxha or Ramiz Alia, the respective ministers Kadri Hazbiu, Fecor Shehu, or Simon Stefani and Hekuran Isai?

According to these admissions this event is still in a backstage. But one thing is clear: We have to do with another crime of the communist dictatorship and it will not be late when the truth will be acknowledged. On January 6 the scientific police started the work to throw light on this event. The final results will be announced.

Agricultural Bank Increases Operations on Credits

AU0701155493 Tirana ATA in English 0914 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Tirana, January 7 (ATA)—The branch of the Bank of Agriculture and Development in Durres has contributed to the agricultural enterprises and private farmers. It operates with the same interest rates like the State Bank, the Savings Bank, and that of trade.

During the last year, this bank gave to private individuals short and long term credits up to 5 years to the tune of 28.7 million leks. The credits have been used to buy fertilizers, seeds, to buy buildings, glass houses, bakehouses, mechanized means, etc. Credits worth 3.7 million leks have been utilized only on buying mechanized means. This bank maintains close relations with associations and groupings of private farmers who have greater guarantees to pay off the credits in time.

Unions Protest Social Democratic Party Offer

AU0801191593 Tirana ATA in English 1114 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tirana, January 8 (ATA)—Recently the Presidency of the Steering Council of the Union of Independent Trade Unions of Tirana received the invitation to organize a meeting with trade unions officials of the Tirana enterprises at the seat of the Social Democratic Party, says a protest by this trade union. The goal of the meeting was to get acquainted with the current troubles of the trade unionists and to coordinate the bilateral activity as well as possible.

The initiative for such a meeting by the branches of the Social Democratic Party is as illicit as paradoxal, says the protest. The Article 1 of the Law No. 7516 On the Trade Unions of the Republic of Albania sanctions that the trade unions are independent social organizations which means that they are independent from the employer, state administration, and political parties. The trade unions representative organs and no one else, either representatives of the government, of the political parties, etc., have the right to hold such meetings. The initiative of the Social Democratic Party puts under the tutelage certain forces, concretely the trade unions, behind which may lurk political goals. We protest against and publicly denounce such illicit initiatives launched by any political and state force, the protest says in conclusion.

Berov, Turkish Envoy Discuss Bilateral Relations

AU0801200793 Sofia BTA in English 1841 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—Prime Minister Lyuben Berov today received Turkish ambassador here Yalcin Oral. Mr. Oral congratulated Mr. Berov on his election to office on behalf of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and assured him he would do his best to expand and strengthen bilateral relations, the Council of Ministers Press Office reported.

Turkey sees Bulgaria as its closest partner in the Balkans, Mr. Oral said.

Mr. Oral and Mr. Berov discussed opportunities and projects to avoid double taxation and encourage reciprocal investment. They pointed to opportunities to further promote bilateral economic, cultural, military and diplomatic ties. The officials also discussed some disputed issues: the delimitation of the border near the Rezovska River and the adjoining waters and air space, welfare benefits to deportees to Turkey and visa regulations, the press office reported.

World Bank Confirms Cooperation With Government

AU0801202993 Sofia BTA in English 1804 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—Deputy Prime Minister Valentin Karabashev today met with the World Bank permanent representative here John Wilton. They exchanged views on the activities of the bank so far, on the tasks, ideas and priorities of cooperation in industry, social policy and on the promotion of investment, trade and private enterprise, the Council of Ministers Press Office reported.

The World Bank will continue to work with the new cabinet, which, in its policy declaration, expressed readiness to cooperate with international financial institutions.

Cabinet Discusses Control Over Arms Trade

AU0801220893 Sofia BTA in English 1948 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—The Council of Ministers today decided to restructure bad corporate debt into public in keeping with all relevant financial and social factors, by a one-time deal. Deputy Prime Minister Valentin Karabashev met with officials of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund [IMF] to discuss Bulgaria's foreign debt and a new agreement with the IMF, the government press office reported.

The Council of Ministers approved the appointment of Aleksandur Aleksandrov as chairman of the governmental commission of control over trade in military and special-purpose goods. Mr. Aleksandrov, a lawyer, has worked for the Criminal Investigation Department (the present National Investigative Service) and the Defense Ministry. The commission (supervised by the prime minister) will operate for a limited period of time. In the meantime, the government will form an expert team authorized to issue licenses and help realize the production of military plants.

The cabinet and the commission today held their first joint meeting to discuss control over arms deliveries. The participants in the meeting discussed some deals which failed due to technical difficulties. They decided to give the green light to several arms contracts.

The officials decided to move a bill on control over military and special-purpose products by February 15. The governmental commission decided to invite trade union representatives to future sittings.

Deputy Prime Minister Describes Economic Plans

AU1001160693 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 4 Jan 93 p 2

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Valentin Karabashev by unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "I Hold Views That Differ From the Program Declaration"]

[Text] [OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK] In its platform declaration the government announced protectionist measures for certain types of Bulgarian production, which is certainly a novelty. What is your comment?

[Karabashev] The idea is for this to be a sensible, moderate protectionism without any excesses. These measures concern production processes that should have a future, but which at the moment are in a serious state because of foreign competition. Protection may be provided by higher import duties, for example. I am a supporter of a liberal economy and liberalized foreign trade, and I therefore believe that one should think very carefully about such protective measures. I presume that this view will prevail in the cabinet as a whole. In addition, such a policy can only be applied within the limits of the already agreed accords on our associate membership of the EC and the talks under way with the EC on free trade and our future intentions of joining GATT.

[OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK] What are the priorities in the government's economic program?

[Karabashev] The first one is connected with privatization and changes in the structure of ownership. Privatization must finally be launched and then speeded up. The second priority relates to solving our foreign debt problems. From now on we must intensify our relations with the international financial institutions and increase our efforts to gain foreign investments for Bulgaria.

[OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK] How do you hope to stimulate private business and manufacture?

[Karabashev] Taxation is one of the most widely used tools for this. I hold views that are dissimilar to the program declaration, but I hope to get the cabinet to accept them. We should develop a system of preferential credits for investment proposes. Countries in a similar situation—with high inflation and high interest rates—usually devise some mechanism to encourage people to invest money in expanding production. We may offer a lower interest rate for such credits than the market rate. At the moment, one might use one of the extrabudgetary accounts, such as the State Reconstruction and Development Fund, which so far has not been harnessed effectively. Only a single loan, provided by the World Bank, has been used from it, and with very bad results at that.

[OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK] How will you juggle both the large domestic budget deficit, which according to the new finance minister is unlikely to be any less this year, and the so-called bad credits, which are to be taken over by the state?

[Karabashev] You ask extremely difficult questions, questions that I cannot answer before I familiarize myself with my job. Of course, I dealt with these problems as a National Assembly deputy and member of the National Assembly Economic Commission. In principle, the taking over of enterprises' debts by the state implies imposing a burden on the budget later, not now. If such moves nonetheless lead to a revival in the economy, they will also have a favorable effect on budget receipts. This is the theory. However, the problem remains that there is no hope that the next budget deficit will be lower than the present one in either nominal or relative terms, expressed as a proportion of the gross domestic product.

When transforming enterprises' debts, we will give priority to tourism, light industry, and agriculture. I believe that this transformation should be connected with the processes of privatization and assist these processes. This will make the privatization offers more attractive. This, incidentally, was also my idea for this year, but the funds earmarked for this purpose in the budget, that is, for privatizing or liquidating enterprises, were not used.

[OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK] Will you include among your priorities the enterprises in the energy industry, thermal power production, and arms production, which are in the worst situation at the moment?

[Karabashev] The previous government also worked on compiling lists of enterprises in fulfillment of Council of Ministers Decree 234. After it has studied these lists, the new government will be able to assess in real terms which enterprises and sectors have the most immediate need of state assistance.

Ex-Foreign Minister Ganev Criticizes SDS

AU0801200993 Sofia BTA in English 1936 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Report by Orlin Dzhelepov]

[Text] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—"I am extremely critical of what is going on in Bulgaria," former Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev said this morning in the "We and the World" live dialogue of the Khristo Botev programme on National Radio. The interview lasted about 75 minutes. Though the theme of the programme was Bulgaria's foreign policy, Mr. Ganev sharply criticized the policy of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS). He was elected to parliament on the SDS list and was foreign minister in the SDS cabinet, formed by Filip Dimitrov.

Stoyan Ganev described as "gaffe of the decade" the fact that the SDS "relinquished power" and went into opposition after parliament passed a censure vote on the Filip Dimitrov government. Those directly involved in this should be called to account, Mr. Ganev said.

Some people of the SDS forgot that the coalition is a cause and made fatal mistakes, or rather these were not exactly SDS members but advisers, who will certainly be brought to trial in the coming months, he said. Obviously he had in mind Mr. Dimitrov's advisers Aleks Aleksiev and Konstantin Mishev. "I do not know whether they will be tried in Bulgaria but they will be brought to justice for the things they have done, for crimes which they probably have committed," he stressed. Without naming names, he said he held information about corruption, connections with the State Security in the past, about commissions on arms deals, etc.

Stoyan Ganev said that ethics are indispensable to politics. In this connection he said: "It is unacceptable for former State Security members to take political responsibility and to be ethical because they will all the time be reminded that their flat, which they offered to the State Security, was known under the name Balkan, for instance—Office No 142." He probably alluded to allegations in the press that ex-Premier Filip Dimitrov used to offer his flat as a contact point to the State Security.

According to Mr. Ganev, the former communist nomenklatura in this country infiltrated in the SDS people linked with the now disbanded State Security in an attempt to break up the coalition. For instance, an adviser has been working for several years for a person who was recently released from prison, Ganev said, alluding to Andrey Lukanov, leader of the Bulgarian Socialist (ex-Communist) Party, who was set free on bail. The communist nomenklatura is connected with these elements who exist, as I suggested, and who should be politically purged, he said.

The Bulgarian Government made no arms deals, Mr. Ganev said, commenting on a scandal which burst several months ago. At that time several newspapers made allegations that Konstantin Mishev, adviser to the then Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov, was involved in arms export to Macedonia. It is true, however, that certain people made attempts in this direction but the

special services foiled their plans, Mr. Ganev said. He said he knew figures about commissions on such sales.

Asked about the SDS's future, Stoyan Ganev said that the coalition will remain a decisive factor in Bulgarian political life, only the formula of the SDS leadership should be changed. Mr. Ganev said that the United Christian Democratic Center (affiliated to the SDS), led by him, will hold a conference tomorrow. He is going to voice his firm insistence on a change in the formula of the SDS leadership. Said he: "I hope the SDS will again take the responsibility for this country's government within a few months."

Mr. Ganev said he would not disparage the efforts of the new cabinet headed by Prof. Lyuben Berov. He believes that parliament will elect Slavi Pashovski as foreign minister. Until now Mr. Pashovski was Bulgaria's representative to the United Nations. Former Foreign Minister Ganev spoke about the international community's assessment of Bulgaria's foreign policy, as well as about his work as chairman of the 47th UN General Assembly session.

Former Defense Official Criticizes Minister

AU0801221093 Sofia BTA in English 1650 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—[passage omitted] Meeting the press yesterday, [new defense minister] Mr. Aleksandrov focused on the need to carry on with the reform in the Army. He said there was a need to improve the efficiency of the military counterintelligence and combat units.

At a news conference today former Deputy Defence Minister Nikola Daskalov sharply criticized some steps moved by Mr. Aleksandrov. He spoke against the disbandment of the Armed Forces Inspectorate, the only supervisory body outside the General Staff. In this way, the General Staff will get completely out of control, according to the former official. The defense minister's decision may reduce the efficiency of the Army and strengthen authoritarian tendencies among the top brass, Mr. Daskalov says.

According to Mr. Daskalov, only some ten per cent of cases of maltreatment in the Army are incidental. Ninety per cent of incidents result from loose discipline and violations of safety norms, he said. He said he would insist that parliament's National Security Committee discusses the Army's combat readiness.

On taking office, the new defense minister dismissed Mr. Daskalov and also rescinded a number of decisions by his predecessor, which he said harmed the prestige of Bulgarian officers.

Dissident SDS Deputies Likely To Form Faction

AU0801202493 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 4 Jan 93 p 1

["DUMA Press" report]

[Text] A well-informed source has told a DUMA reporter that when parliament returns from its vacation on 20 January, certain deputies of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] intend to propose changes in the parliamentary regulations. Their main purpose is said to be to enable new parliamentary groups to be registered that have not run independently in the elections.

On the day that the vote was taken on electing Berov's cabinet, at least 20 SDS deputies were prepared to announce the formation of such a faction. If this comes about, the SDS would automatically become a minority, National Assembly deputies comment. On 31 December, the official organ of the ex-ruling party published a list of 23 former SDS deputies in whom the SDS had lost confidence. The new formation of former rank and file SDS deputies is supposed to form the basis of a new political party that will count on support from business circles and the trade unions. Deputies from the Alliance for Social Democracy may also be invited to join.

Free Democrats Leader Cites Strength of BSP

AU1001184093 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 6 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Ivan Kalchev, leader of Union of Free Democrats, by Elena Dyulgerova; place and date not given: "In March Elections, the Bulgarian Socialist Party Might Win 60 Percent of Votes and the Union of Democratic Forces—15 Percent"]

[Text] [Dyulgerova] Mr. Kalchev, how do you feel as leader of a group expelled from the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces]?

[Kalchev] We do not consider ourselves expelled. The SDS is not some Group of Seven that now imposes whatever it wants by methods familiar to us from the Bolshevik period. After the recent declaration made by the SDS parliamentary group on not taking part in the ballot to elect the government, this was allegedly taken to indicate that they want elections.... If this was so, however, they should have left their members free to cast their votes, then they would have had a chance of defeating the government. By their action, the issue was decided in advance and there was no problem in electing the cabinet.

[Dyulgerova] How do you explain this move of theirs?

[Kalchev] I believe that their last rally scared them, because very few people turned out. They also have certainly received information that the people in the provinces are completely disillusioned with the SDS policy. They can see that if they go ahead and participate in the elections that they have been urging—these would take place around the beginning of March—then they might not even win 15 percent of the votes. Yet Ventsislav Dimitrov talked about 60 or 65 percent at the rally held the other evening.

[Dyulgerova] Can you list the possible plus and minus points of the new government?

[Kalchev] In my opinion, the "pluses" are far more numerous. The main point is that it will be able to continue the reform, and that it will be possible to create political stability in Bulgaria within the context of the extremely complex situation in the Balkans. For this reason, from both the international and domestic viewpoints—bearing in mind our country's overriding national interest—I believe that this government will manage to cope, and not by resorting to theatrical actions of the kind that the previous administration employed.... I may appear to be overoptimistic, but I predict that this cabinet will serve until the end of its term of office. Parliament will probably undergo restructuring, so as to create a dynamic, floating majority on individual problems and to provide support for the cabinet's efforts.

[Dyulgerova] Surely there is something that worries you regarding the new government, nevertheless....

[Kalchev] What worries me is that this government has been formed with the support of the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], and the SDS demagogues will exploit this fact. This may indeed influence some people, especially those who want to demonstrate their hardline anticommunist positions. The other thing that concerns me is that the other party that supports the cabinet is the DPS [Rights and Freedoms Movement]. My feelings of alarm are related to the possibility that the nationalist card may be played. Georgi Markov stated that the SDS would not permit this, but I believe that his statement is very hypocritical. Markov is already playing this card himself. He, Savov, and certain other SDS figures are openly supporting the Turkish Democratic Party. This is a blatantly ethnic group—its leader Adem Kenan talks about a two- nation state. There is no secret about this.... I also see a danger in the way Edvin Sugarev is acting. In my view, he is the darkest horse in the SDS stable.

[Dyulgerova] What do you think will become of the SDS?

[Kalchev] I believe that it will be reborn.

[Dyulgerova] Why did the BSP allow the government to be elected, as this has possible negative consequences for it as well?

[Kalchev] I think that everyone in Bulgaria is now convinced that the BSP does not want to govern. Had the cabinet not been approved, this would have led to new elections, and the feelings in Bulgaria, among these highly communized people that have been hoodwinked by a handful of people who fed like parasites on the SDS idea, are such that they would vote for the BSP. According to my estimate, which is drawn from polling results, and given the current situation in the country, the BSP would win 60 percent of the votes if elections are held in March.

Turkish Democratic Party Holds Working Meeting

AU1001192293 Sofia BTA in English 1832 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Plovdiv, January 10 (BTA) — The Central Coordinating Council of the new Turkish Democratic Party held its first working meeting today. The participants discussed the party's registration. The major obstacle to registration is the fact the Constitution says nothing about ethnic minorities' collective rights, party leader Adem Kenan told a news conference after the meeting. Mr. Kenan denied allegations by leaders of the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms that the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) (which ruled this country until recently) prompted him to form his party.

Officials of the Turkish Democratic Party indeed met with SDS leaders to discuss chances to form a coalition, but with no result. According to Mr. Kenan, the failure was due to the lack of provisions on collective minority rights in the statutes of the SDS affiliates.

United Christian Democrats View SDS Role

AU0901192393 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Today the National Council of the United Christian Democratic Center held an expanded conference in Sofia with the goal of starting a discussion on the situation in the country and the tactics to be adopted by the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces]. The resolution adopted by the conference states:

The United Christian Democratic Center considers it essential to preserve SDS unity and to consolidate the SDS parliamentary group on the basis of the SDS program declaration.

It is necessary to make attempts to form a parliamentary majority on an anticommunist and antisocialist basis that will make it possible to form an SDS government.

The United Christian Democratic Center proposes calling a new SDS national conference as a matter of urgency and urges a discussion on a new formula for the SDS leadership that will exclude the possibility of applying pressure on the parties and organizations in the SDS coalition.

Lukanov Comments After Release From Detention

AU0801160093 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 4 Jan 93 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Andrey Lukanov, National Assembly deputy of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) and member of the BSP Supreme Council, by Lidiya Lecheva; place and date not given: "Road from 'Eye of Hurricane' to Prisoner's Cell Proves the Fastest in Bulgaria"]

[Excerpts] [Lecheva] During the first night that you spent in your cell in the building on Razvigor Street [offices of Chief Investigation Department] in Sofia, you probably did not expect to stay there six more months.

[Lukanov] When a person has voluntarily chosen to place the epicenter of his political life in "the eye of the hurricane," as the Americans say, he should not be surprised at what happens to him. In this sense, I had no feelings of despair or of being in an impasse either during the first days of questioning on Razvigor Street or later on. I expected to stay there for a long time because the aim of this act of repression was simply to scare me or society in general by making examples of a few people. It was necessary to isolate me from sociopolitical life for a length of time. It is evident that certain people do not want me to participate in Bulgarian politics.

[Lecheva] Are these people only among those in power?

[Lukanov] No, I would not say so. I do not want to deal with the speculations that have appeared concerning the role of some or other of my party comrades in deciding my fate, but I think that one should not underestimate the existence of differences within the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], or the fact that we have failed to completely renounce the practices used in internal party life and the methods employed in internal party struggles that differentiate a party of the Bolshevik type from a democratic socialist organization of the kind that we want to be. [passage omitted]

[Lecheva] How do you assess the support that the BSP gave to Professor Berov's government?

[Lukanov] I consider that the BSP would have made an extremely serious mistake—though I do not interfere in the decisions made by our coalition partners—if the majority of the BSP deputies had passed a vote of censure on this government and thus torpedoed the last opportunity to form a national cabinet. I think that this was a major test of the extent and depth of the changes that have occurred in the BSP, one that shows who supports change and who not. I am overjoyed that most of my colleagues passed this stiff political test. Following the annoying failure of Petur Boyadzhiev's candidacy, and given the existence of certain doubts regarding the DPS [Rights and Freedoms Movement], it was not easy to rise above short-term considerations and personal interest to adopt a decision guided solely by the national interest.

[Lecheva] Did you meet Ahmed Dogan when you were in hospital?

[Lukanov] No, and he made no request for such a meeting. [passage omitted]

[Lecheva] Do you expect any sentences to be passed on your case, if indeed it comes to court?

[Lukanov] Anything is possible, especially when justice is once again subordinated to political orders, when high magistrates, guided by fear or obedience, are prepared to adopt the most unlikely verdicts. For example, the Supreme Court's ruling confirming my detention for questioning states that a National Assembly deputy is more inclined to commit a crime than an ordinary citizen. [passage omitted]

[Lecheva] People expect to see you playing one of the most active roles in parliament.

[Lukanov] I have no particular ambition to engage in great public activity during the next month or two. The doctors strongly advise me to undergo treatment to restore my health. The parliamentary vacation is a stroke of good luck for me. I will take part in the work of the National Assembly and will carry out my duties as a deputy. I may try to collect everything that I have written during the past few months into a single edition, dedicated to the fight for human rights and the state subject to the rule of law.

Former Politburo Member Yotov Released on Bail

AU0801184493 Sofia BTA in English 1528 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Sofia, January 8 (BTA)—Yordan Yotov, former member of the Politburo, secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and editor-in-chief of its daily RABOTNICHESKO DELO, today was released from custody on a 20,000 leva bail, BTA learnt from Mikhail Doychev, prosecutor at the Prosecutor General's Office, who leads the team of examining magistrates investigating the cases of culprits for the economic catastrophe in Bulgaria.

Mr. Yotov was arrested on July 20, 1992 on charges of releasing tens of millions in grant aid to communist parties and movements abroad. He spent in pre-trial detention 173 days and the change of restraint coincides with the end of the six-month term envisaged in the effective act on preliminary investigation. The indictment against Mr. Yotov and other ten ex-secretaries of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party will be soon submitted to the Supreme Court, which will schedule the trial against the ex-communist bosses.

Klaus Comments on CSFR Division, Nuclear Power

AU0801104793 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2100 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Interview with Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus by Helmut Brandstaetter in Salzburg on 7 January—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] This evening Helmut Brandstaetter asked Prime Minister Klaus what his country, which is independent now, expects of the West.

[Klaus] You know, we must conclude the transformation of our system. This is our task and we do not need financial assistance with it. We need the opening of all other European countries and the rest of the world to us, our goods, and everything. I believe that we will certainly have such economic, political, and cultural relations with Austria.

[Brandstaetter] Now everywhere in Europe, at least in the EC, a process of opening is taking place. At the beginning of the year the single market was established. There is a countermovement in the East. Boundary posts are being set up, including some between your country and Slovakia. From what one hears, even checks on travelers, which were not intended at the beginning, are to be carried out. Czech politicians said that they are necessary because too many Slovaks would come to the Czech Republic.

[Klaus] No, no. This is really not true. Unfortunately, one cannot compare the integration processes in West and East Europe. We are looking for our identity. We lost our identities 40 or 50 years ago. We must redefine our identity and we need the border for that, possibly only for a short time. But the borders between the Czech Republic and Slovakia are still more open today than the borders in the other European countries.

[Brandstaetter] Certainly today; but there is the danger—apparently, Slovaks also see it—that stricter border controls will be introduced after all because a strong influx will allegedly take place.

[Klaus] That is the future. Why should we have such pessimistic forecasts? I do not see things so pessimistically.

[Brandstaetter] What are your forecasts for economic development in Slovakia? It cannot be unimportant to you how your neighboring country develops. Do you see the danger that economic difficulties will also lead to political difficulties, and that democracy might even be endangered if the economic difficulties increase?

[Klaus] You know, today Slovakia is a foreign country for me. That is to say, that I do not have the right to analyze the situation in Slovakia from above. We were able to do this in the past. I also do not have the right to defend or criticize the economic situation in Austria, Poland, or the FRG. Unfortunately, I cannot do that.

[Brandstaetter] You also do not feel a special responsibility for development in Slovakia?

[Klaus] Certainly not. Why?

[Brandstaetter] Mr. Prime Minister, in talks with Austrian politicians the subject of nuclear power arises again and again. When and from what points of view will it be decided whether the construction of Temelin construction will be completed?

[Klaus] I hope that we will discuss this problem as early as the end of January. But the Austrians cannot really expect something special.

[Brandstaetter] That is to say, Temelin will be built.

[Klaus] In my opinion, yes. But I have not yet seen a document on Temelin. We will really discuss this very well, thoroughly, slowly, and very responsibly. Yes.

[Brandstaetter] Do you at all understand that there is apparently very strong emotion in this respect—let us say, fear?

[Klaus] Absolutely.

[Brandstaetter] But you cannot help the Austrians. You simply say: All right, we need nuclear power and the neighbors must live with it. Is that your point of view?

[Klaus] Unfortunately, what else can I really say? We are looking for other possibilities. We are looking for savings in energy consumption. Nevertheless, I have yet to see another solution.

Reaffirms European Integration Course

AU0801163893 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 0600 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Report on interview with Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus by Walter Ausweger; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ausweger] The consistent reduction of obstacles to international trade is currently the crucial problem of Czech foreign and economic policy. Three years after the revolutionary changes of 1989, Vaclav Klaus believes that as a result of its consistent market economy course, the Czech Republic is ready for Europe. Together with Hungary and Poland, his country has fulfilled the conditions for entering the EC as far as democracy, the rule of law, and a market economy are concerned.

Official entry negotiations with the three reform states in eastern Central Europe should begin in the mid-1990's, Klaus said.

[Klaus] Even today we are a normal European country as far as political democracy is concerned. We can certainly compare our democracy with various EC countries in southern Europe. There can be no doubt about that. From an economic point of view, we have already crossed the Rubicon between the old and new regimes.

Within two or three years we will have created all necessary conditions for normal economic development. As far as we are concerned, we will certainly be prepared within two or three years.

[Ausweger] Regarding the Slovak economy, which is structurally much weaker than the Czech economy, one cannot yet say that it is ready for Europe, Klaus said. After the division of the CSFR, Prague will certainly not harmonize its European policy with Meciar's left-wing nationalist philosophy, but rather continue its independent course toward integration in the West.

[Klaus] We are—and I must say, unfortunately—already two independent countries. Slovakia is indeed an independent country. We will certainly not take such steps along with Slovakia.

[Ausweger] Klaus sees the Czech Republic's options for security policy in line with pan-European security needs. The abolition of the security policy vacuum in East Europe is the condition for restructuring the political architecture of our continent, Klaus said. To Klaus, full EC and NATO membership are realistic by 2000. The head of the Czech Government is currently not interested in membership in the West European Union because, contrary to the Atlantic Alliance, it does not have any troops.

[Klaus] I am absolutely sure that, within two or three years, one might say, we will be ready to march into the EC.

Lux Views Reasons for Deputy's Dismissal

LD0901104193 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 0800 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Speaking on Czech Television's Events & Comments current affairs program on 8 January, Josef Lux, Czech deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, explained why he recalled his First Deputy Minister Vlastimil Tlusty from his post. He stressed that during Vlastimil Tlusty's six months in office he did not come up with a single idea, proposal, or objection and he expressed his critical objections exclusively at rallies or in the Czech National Council. The minister further stated that there were three serious objective reasons for Tlusty's dismissal, which he told to the Civic Democratic Party leadership, and which he would not make public out of consideration for the coalition. I discussed with Mr. Tlusty three times the need to change his work but despite his repeated assurances nothing happened, Josef Lux explained. He added that he appointed another member of the Civic Democratic Party—Karel Burda—to the post of first deputy agriculture minister.

Government on Budget, Prices, Property Division

AU0801162993 Prague CTK in English 2028 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Prague, Jan 6 (CTK)—The deficit incurred by the Czech Republic for last year should not surpass, according to preliminary figures, 1 billion crowns (35 million USD [U.S. dollars]), Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus said at a press conference today. This is an extraordinary success, Klaus added, considering the federal budget deficit should be 5 billion crowns (175 million USD) and the Slovak deficit approximately 13 billion crowns (455 million USD).

The combined share of all three deficits amounted to about 3 to 3.5 percent of the overall size of the budgets. The federal deficit's share of the gross national product is only 1.5 percent. Any European Community country should envy this result, Klaus said.

With regard to the price increase at the beginning of January, the Czech Government does not intend to introduce any price regulation, said Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus today.

In the next few days, instead of considering penalties we will be considering additional instruction on calculating the value-added tax, Klaus stated. When producers face the usual January decrease in purchases, they will thoroughly think out what to do with prices, Klaus explained. He also admitted the possibility of intentional increases in prices and of abuse of the situation of the new tax system's introduction. About 10 percent of the former Czechoslovak property is still to be divided between the Czech and Slovak Republics, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus said today.

Klaus was speaking at the Czech cabinet's meeting which discussed, among other things, a draft Czech-Slovak agreement on joint steps in implementing the constitutional law passed by the Federal Assembly (parliament) on November 13.

Klaus said that pending questions could be solved in a clause to the Czech-Slovak treaty on property division. I think that I and Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar could sign the clause soon, Klaus said.

Questions to be solved include Slovakia's claim to 7.5 tonnes of the former Czechoslovakia's gold reserves, problems related to the first wave of coupon privatisation in which citizens of both the Czech and Slovak Republics purchased shares in both parts of the then Czechoslovakia, and demands for transfer of buildings for diplomatic or cultural purposes in Prague or Bratislava.

Klaus said that also waiting for solution is the settlement of property questions of several companies, including the Czechoslovak Sea-Going Navigation Company, the Czechoslovak Airlines, the travel agency CEDOK, and former Czechoslovakia's share in the now-defunct Council For Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA).

Finance Minister on Possible Price Regulation

LD0901122993 Prague CTK in English 1152 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Prague, Jan 9 (CTK)—Czech Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik said last night that the government is

ready to regulate the prices of some basic foodstuffs unless the price rise triggered off by the introduction of the value added tax at the beginning of January is halted. Kocarnik was speaking with journalists after an extraordinary session of the Tripartite Council, consisting of representatives of the government, employers and trade unions. The council's goal is to maintain social peace in the period of transition from central-command economy to the market system.

Kocarnik said that prices of some foodstuffs, particularly dairy products and bread, markedly exceed the expected growth. Price controls of these products will be intensified, Kocarnik said.

Chairman of the Czech-Moravian Chamber of Trade Unions Vladimir Petrus said that trade unions consider it appropriate to compensate people with lower incomes for the price increase, but did not specify his proposal. He said it is difficult to say whether it is the businessmen or the government who are responsible for the price growth. Asked whether the present situation could harm social peace, Petrus said that it will be preserved if talks on price problems continue.

Parties Discuss Possible Presidential Candidates

AU0801163193 Prague CTK in English 2139 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Prague, Jan 6 (CTK)—The deputies of the opposition Left Bloc are seriously considering their candidate to stand against Vaclav Havel for the Czech Republic presidency, the chairman of the left-wing coalition's group Jaroslav Ortman told CTK today. Ortman added that the candidate's name would not be announced until Saturday [9 January], when the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) should make a recommendation. The Left Bloc coalition consists of the KSCM and the Democratic Left.

The chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, Milan Uhde, was asked by CTK when he saw the presidential election taking place. He suggested that the upper chamber of the Czech parliament—the Senate—should be formed prior to the election. Although his Civic Democratic Party (ODS) supports Havel, Uhde said no candidate would be formally proposed by the ODS until the election process is clarified.

Uhde was seconded on this by the ODS coalition partner, the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL). Deputy Chairman of Chamber of Deputies Jan Kasal said that the KDU-CSL would proceed alongside the ODS, but may propose its candidate.

However, former Czechoslovak President Havel has not yet been completely rejected by the party, Kasal said.

Kasal also spoke of the overt rumour in the parliament whereby former Czechoslovak Premier Jan Strasky (ODS) would be a dark horse candidate for the Czech presidency and in principle could find support among many deputies in Kasal's party.

Defense Minister Sends Open Letter to Employees

AU0701151293 Prague TELEGRAF in Czech 5 Jan 93 p 3

[CTK report: "An Opportunity for Young People"]

[Text] The nascent Czech Army should become a member of the European defense system. This is what Czech Defense Minister Antonin Baudysis said in an open letter to all members and civilian employees of the Czech Republic's Army. The letter was released yesterday by the Czech Defense Ministry's Administration for Contacts With the Public.

"International implications and the security interests of our state are the basic principles on which we must build when establishing the Czech Army. We understand its existence as an expression of Czech statehood and determination to defend sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Czech Republic. We assume that the new organizational structure of the Army and Defense Ministry will be completed soon. Over the coming months, we want to implement this structure so that we can work according to the new form," Minister Baudys writes.

According to him, however, the Czech Army will not be as large as it is now. It will build on the experience and knowledge of senior officers, but it also wants, above all, to offer an opportunity to young people who are willing to permanently educate themselves and work hard.

"I am expecting active support from the staff of commanders, as well as loyalty from civilian employees. I want to rely on everyone who has a clean record, enjoys natural authority among his subordinates and in their milieu, and who has a strong ability to adopt a creative stance toward problems," the Czech defense minister says.

U.S. Diplomat Views Information Needs, Problems

AU1001194693 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 5 Jan 93 p 4

[TA SR report: "Still Without a Roof of Its Own; Difficult Beginnings of Slovak Diplomacy in United States"]

[Excerpts] Washington (TA SR)— "Even though the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington is in a very difficult situation in terms of personnel and material provisions, its top priority in the initial period will be to meet all needs of the Slovak Government and the requirements of the U.S. side," Milan Erban, charge d'affairs of the Slovak Embassy in the United States, told TA SR in an interview. [passage omitted]

Information about Slovakia has been a sore point in its representation abroad. Information about Slovakia is often distorted and based on incorrect data. The Slovak Embassy will respond to that through a positive information policy rather than through denials. Erban also stressed that something no less important is the flow of information from home. "We are working in a country that is an information superpower," he said in this respect. "It is extremely embarrassing when the U.S. side has information about developments in our country before we do. We are then unable to competently comment on and respond to this information. It is absolutely essential that we obtain information about events at home at least as thoroughly and as quickly as they do."

Meciar Interviewed on Current Issues

LD0801204893 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1700 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Weekly interview with Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by [first name indistinct] Bielikova; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Bielikova] Mr. Prime Minister, willingly or unwillingly, when speaking to representatives of the Association of Slovak Journalists on Wednesday [6 January] you made a distinction between equal and more equal journalists as well as between one political organization and the other—the trade union organization.

[Meciar] Speaking to the journalists I received, I did not make this distinction between journalists. From the start, I am aware of the feelings of various people who consider themselves to be more important than others with whom I speak. The issue of finding the proper place and the structure for the community of journalists is their internal matter. This concerns neither the government nor me personally. One's feelings, which position one takes, is one's personal political and civic stance.

As far as the journalists I received are concerned, I have to take several facts into account. Not all the journalists have taken the same stance on the state. There were those who, even when we were the opposition, looked for ways to help the birth of our statehood. They looked for ways to organize and prepare people for information policy in order to provide them with professional knowledge and make them capable of influencing public opinion abroad. The fact that we respect them and continue to speak to them is not aimed against anybody.

Not even the Syndicate of Journalists will tell me who I should or should not receive. No one is going to tell me which journalist I should consider to be more important to be received and which ones to consider as less important. If they hold their rights and freedoms in esteem they should respect the right of the prime minister to choose his partners for interviews. [passage omitted]

[Bielikova] Let us return to the issue of political orientation. The truth is that in none of the highly developed democracies around the world do journalists associate on a political basis; their organizations are mostly of a professional and trade union character.

[Meciar] Let us look again at the current development. It is not political in the sense of associating itself with a political party and becoming its vanguard. Nor in the case of that association did I find such a political spirit. However, I noticed an active stance on politics and events in the society. [passage omitted]

The issue of whether the syndicate is a professional body or not is again the syndicate's internal matter. I just quoted a part of a speech by Mr. Gembicky, chairman of the Syndicate of Journalists. I beg you to treat journalists' minor issues as journalists' minor issues and not to drag the prime minister into this as he is too busy.

[Bielikova] Let us turn to questions that all citizens are interested in. Our first working week in the independent Slovak Republic is over. Therefore, what our republic has at its disposal, what we will get, what belongs to us, are immensely important. In this connection how do you accept the decision by the IMF on the division of the CSFR quota between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic according to a ratio of 2.29:1?

[Meciar] There was a possibility of appealing this decision. We did not do so. We have studied the documents that went to the IMF. We did not agree with all the data. The ratio originally proposed was worse, it was even more to the disadvantage of Slovakia. Following talks with Mr. De Groote, who was here and visited me, we agreed that the limit acceptable to us was the 2:1 ratio, the limit of retreat was 2.29:1. This ratio does not represent our share on the property. Regardless of this share, the division of property according to the agreement concluded with the Czech side remains a ratio of 2:1.

The 2.29:1 ratio represents credit facilities from which we can draw from abroad. This is based on the figures that were available. We have a feeling of injustice. However, if we view this in terms of scale of resources set for this year then this limit is still acceptable to us. Next

year the ratio can be understood in a different way, according to the development of the budget in the republic.

[Bielikova] Also related to this is the agreement between the Czech and the Slovak Republics on the division of federal property. It is to be signed by you and Mr. Klaus shortly. According to Vaclav Klaus there is no conflict sorrounding the division of 90 percent of the common property. Five controversial points remain, however; for example, the Slovak gold, the consequences of the first wave of coupon privatization, the division of the maritime transport, airlines, and so on.

[Meciar] The points on which opinions differ are even more numerous. These include shared companies that were the responsibility of the Federation, like the issue of the Czechoslovak Commercial Bank—a large amount of money is deposited in this bank—where there is a proposal for a slightly different arrangement: settlement of the bank's capital in general.

Matters have not been brought to a conclusion on our side either. We have not unified our opinions yet. That is why I will devote one full day before Sunday to a meeting with economic ministers and state secretaries to discuss this problem. Next week it will be debated by the government of the Slovak Republic and after that Prime Minister Klaus will visit Slovakia. During this visit we will discuss the matter together. [passage omitted]

[Bielikova] And when is this agreement supposed to be signed?

[Meciar] If we agree, it can be signed next week.

[Bielikova] And now, Mr. Prime Minister, regarding the standard of living, the high prices of food products in the shops shocked people during at the beginning of the week. Is the government intending once again to embark on price regulation should the curve continue to rise?

[Meciar] Let us look at what happened. Value-added tax [VAT] was adjusted. Since it has flexible top and bottom limits it can influence pricing. In the case of food products we expected an increase of 4-5 percent, which would correspond with the VAT range. But at the same time, the producers or marketing people—we have not yet found out exactly who—abused the situation and multiplied the prices. That is an unacceptable situation. This issue was the topic of my meeting with the finance minister yesterday. It was also discussed at the meeting with civil servants and we have issued instructions for an immediate start on checks on price movements in various regions of Slovakia to be able to make comparisons, and should future price movements exceed the purchasing power of the public or those social limits depending on them [words indistinct], the government will have to start regulating again. The best thing would be if the market regulated itself but the market in the true sense of the word does not yet exist. Prices are still quasimonopolist ones, even though there are a number of private businessmen. However, often they cannot agree on prices and influence them. Sometimes there are also some dirty deals.

So the government has interfered. It is a very unpleasant surprise for us since we know that everyone desires a profit, but we know that we will have to take other measures to accelerate the adoption of the law on consumer protection. [passage omitted]

[Bielikova] Does this mean that once the law on consumer protection is adopted, the government will no longer need to enter the entire process, even through a temporary regulation of prices or any similar measure?

[Meciar] Once the law on consumer protection is adopted, the regulation of certain types of prices—at least as far as basic foodstuff is concerned—is a matter of social policy. It is linked to the issue of the sufficient nutrional value of foods. We are already facing its negative impact on costs in other spheres, such as labor productivity, health, the burden of pensions, etc. These are two sides of the same coin.

Thus, according to the development of future social policy it is possible that later the government will take the step of stabilizing the prices of some foodstuff. However, for the time being, this is considered a premature step. Then we will have to find a way to compensate the producers for the cost of public subsidies.

Ministers Agree on Transportation Division

AU0801164193 Prague CTK in English 1802 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Bratislava, Jan 6 1993 (CTK)—Truck transport in the Slovak Republic will be fully privatised and automobile transport will require appropriation to less lucrative connections and locations where there are no other transport opportunities, CTK was told by Ivan Reguli, press secretary for the Slovak Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Public Works.

Transport Minister Roman Hofbauer and Minister for Administration and Privatisation of National Property of the Slovak Republic Lubomir Dolgos agreed here today on the division of automobile freight transport from personal transport. Long distance automobile transport will also be privatised, said Reguli.

In the telecommunications field, great interest in the early return of investment is being shown from abroad. Reguli said that the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development have provided Slovakia with $536 million for the reconstruction and modernisation of telecommunications. Over the next three years, Slovak telecommunications will increase in value by 15 billion crowns (500 million USD [U.S. dollars]) over the present 10 billion (approximately 330 million USD).

The state is not interested in expanding privatisation in this field. After the separation of the postal branch from

the telecommunications service, the postal service must do everything possible to become self-sufficient, he said.

Braco Allows for Temporary Price Limitation

LD0901171893 Prague CTK in English 1441 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Bratislava, Jan 9 (CTK)—Slovak Agriculture Minister Peter Baco today allowed for the possibility of limiting maximum prices of essential foodstuffs, particularly of meat. Speaking with journalists after his meeting with Slovak Minister for the Administration and Privatisation of National Property Lubomir Dolgos, Baco said that this regulation should be temporary. He added that in view of the recent rise in prices due to the introduction of the value-added tax, the Finance Ministry will carry out extended control whose results will be known by the end of next week.

Dolgos said that almost all problems concerning privatisation in the field of agriculture and food industry were solved during his meeting with Baco. He added that the state's participation in agricultural enterprises is sporadic.

According to Baco, a majority of food producing enterprises have already been privatised and it is impossible for the state to keep at least part of them so that it could influence prices of essential foodstuffs.

Gas Pipeline Division Changes Energy Policy

AU0801163793 Prague CTK in English 1643 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Bratislava, Jan 6 (CTK)—The division of the formerly Czechoslovak Transit gas pipeline into two independent (Czech and Slovak) companies changes Slovakia's power plan, said Slovak Gas Company (SPP) director Arpad Demko today.

He was speaking with journalists after a meeting of division directors of the Slovak part of the Transit gas pipeline, at which it was announced that the divisions will be placed under the authority of the SPP. The announcement was made by Slovak Economics Minister Ludovit Cernak, general director of the Czech Gas Industry Company (CPP) Miroslav Grec, and commercial director of the Transit gas pipeline Miroslav Matousu.

According to Demko, the SPP is preparing, in cooperation with the Slovak Economics Ministry, a new power conception of the Slovak Republic based on natural gas.

In December, the two (Czech and Slovak) gas producing companies established a subsidiary that will take over obligations towards foreign partners, their share being 50-50. The subsidiary will be based in Slovakia and will not yield any profit.

Grec said that until 1996, the Czech Republic's gas supplies will come solely from the territory of the former Soviet Union, that is via Slovakia.

He added that two-thirds of the gas supplies coming from the territory of the former Soviet Union will stay in Slovakia and one-third will be supplied to the Czech Republic. The transit of gas via Slovak territory will be paid in crowns, Grec said.

Slovaks, Czechs May Share Embassies for 15 Years

AU0701164893 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 6 Jan 93 p 1

[TA SR report: "No Agreement Yet"]

[Text] Bratislava—An agreement on a temporary solution to the placement of the representative mission of the Slovak Republic in Washington on the premises of the representative mission of the Czech Republic has not yet been signed, says a statement that was sent to the TA SR yesterday by Roman Buzek, empowered [povereny] director of the Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, conditions for the work of representative missions of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic are governed by the treaty on the division of the CSFR's property, on which follow the principles of procedures to be applied by the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic in leasing real estate to one another. The period of leases should not exceed 15 years. Treaties on leases of space will be concluded only by the ministries of foreign affairs and not by the two countries' representative missions. This also applies to the Slovak Embassy in the United States. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, therefore, stressed that charge d'affaires Milan Erban had not been authorized to conclude any agreement on the lease of space until 31 January 1993. (This piece of information was reported by the TA SR Editorial Office for Foreign Affairs in an interview with the Slovak diplomat on 3 January.) In case such an agreement was signed, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic considers it invalid. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic is taking the necessary steps for the question of the location of the representative mission of the Slovak Republic in the United States to be solved satisfactorily and quickly.

SNS Nominates Prokes for President

AU0701162093 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 6 Jan 93 p 3

[TA SR report: "Jozef Prokes Officially"]

[Text] Bratislava— Marian Andel, chairman of the Club of Slovak National Party [SNS] Deputies in the National Council of the Slovak Republic [NR SR], yesterday officially nominated NR SR Deputy Chairman Jozef Prokes for the post of president of the Slovak Republic.

He did so in accordance with the electoral procedures for election of the Slovak Republic president approved by NR SR Resolution No. 114 of 22 December 1992. This was announced to the TA SR by SNS press spokesman Julius Handzarik in Bratislava yesterday. Prokes had been nominated previously by the SNS Assembly on 11 October 1992 and by the SNS Club of Deputies in the NR SR on 13 October 1992.

Presidential Candidates View Future Tasks

LD1001180893 Prague CTK in English 1723 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Bratislava, Jan 10 (CTK)—One of the most important tasks of a future Slovak president will be to change Slovakia's relations to Slovaks living abroad, which will help create a Slovak lobby in West Europe, Canada, and the United States, Michal Kovac, one of the Slovak presidential candidates, said on Slovak Television today.

In the president's foreign activities, special emphasis will have to be placed on relations with Hungary, said Michal Kovac, former chairman of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly and deputy chairman of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS).

He added that a tradition of good neighbourly relations of Slovakia must be established, above all to the Czech Republic.

In relation to foreign countries, most important will be improving Slovakia's trustworthiness especially in contacts with the United States, Canada, the European Community, and Asian states, Michal Kovac said.

Another candidate for Slovak president, current Deputy Premier Roman Kovac (HZDS), said that Slovakia needs a president above all for its citizens and only then for relations with foreign countries.

We did have a president, who in relation to foreign countries, acted as a very good man and a humanist. But he was not the president of the citizens of this republic and that was how he ended Roman Kovac said.

According to him, the key task of a future Slovak president will be ensuring Slovakia's political and social stability.

Jozef Markus, chairman of the Matica Slovenska Cultural Institution which proposed him for Slovak president, said that the president must love all people, even those who do not love him; only then will he be a president for the citizens.

He added that Slovakia should not concentrate its attention again on only one world power.

A more human environment for life is in small nations and states. Therefore Slovakia's president should support and initiate cooperation between small countries and nations, Markus said.

Presidential candidate nominated by the Slovak National Party (SNS), Jozef Prokes, deputy chairman of the Slovak parliament, thinks that a president should listen more than he should speak.

Poll Shows More Support for Ruling Party

AU0801163993 Prague CTK in English 1350 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Bratislava, Jan 6 (CTK)—The latest poll by the Slovak Statistical Office reveals that support for Slovakia's ruling Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) grew marginally in December 1992 to 30 percent.

The poll of 1,183 Slovaks, concluded on December 14, compares to a result of 28 percent in October.

A total of 12 percent of those questioned said they supported the Democratic Left Party (SDL), 7 percent were for the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), and 9 percent backed the Slovak National Party (SNS). Egyutteles, the Democratic Party and the Greens each captured 2 percent apiece.

The HZDS draws the most support from those between 25 and 29 and 50 to 59, as well as among workers. The SDL receives the greatest support from those between 30 and 39, while the SNS draws the most support from those between 18 and 24 and Bratislava residents. The KDH has the most support from those over 60 and those with a primary education.

Finance Minister Interviewed on Common Currency

AU1001163793 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 7 Jan 93 p 7

[Interview with Finance Minister Julius Toth by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "Who Will Lose His Money?"—reprinted from Bratislava PRACA in Slovak No. 3]

[Text] We would like to keep the common currency for at least six months in 1993. To say now that the 1:1 exchange rate will not hold is irresponsible at the very least. This is what Finance Minister Julius Toth said in an interview with PRACA No. 3.

[Toth] The amount of the budget deficit is one on the factors according to which the common currency will be preserved, and it can become a reason to unilaterally abrogate the common currency. We will not estimate the 1992 deficit, but we will estimate it in January 1993, and on a regular basis thereafter. It will be announced a day or two in advance when the banknotes will be stamped by Slovak (and Czech in the Czech Republic) stamps. People will come to a designated place where they will receive stamps, which they will glue onto the banknotes. Thereby, the Slovak currency will be separated from the

Czech one. In the future, banknotes marked in this way can be exchanged, gradually or in a lump sum, for new Slovak korunas.

[PRACA] Will everyone receive as many stamps as he requests, that is, as many as he needs to stamp all his money?

[Toth] No. There will be a limit per person, or per household. The remaining money will have to be deposited with a financial institution—banks. When withdrawing, he will receive the new currency.

[PRACA] Rumors are that only 10,000 korunas per household will be stamped. Will we be able to deposit the rest in a bank anytime?

[Toth] No. The time for deposits will be limited to, I assume, 24 hours. Moreover, it will depend on technical and personal possibilities of the financial institutions. We have not, as yet, fixed the amount of money per household to be stamped.

[PRACA] That is, it may happen that in the banks they will not be able to serve all the depositors within the designated time.

[Toth] Yes. This is why I am advising the people not to leave their money at home, but to put it in a bank.

[PRACA] What will be the difference between money that we have at home and our money deposited in banks?

[Toth] We may not be allowed to exchange all the money we keep at home. We will have to fix an amount per family or per member of a household. This amount will be allowed to be exchanged. The rest must be deposited in a financial institution. If we do not manage to deposit it, we cannot exchange it or use it.

[PRACA] Does that mean that there will be a limited sum of money and a period within which the money can be exchanged in a lump sum? If one does not manage this, will he lose money?

[Toth] Yes. I would like to stress, however, that money will be exchanged on a 1:1 ratio. The operation, regardless of whether it comes unexpectedly or not, will involve two steps: stamping the money and their exchange for new money. The exchange itself does not have to be in a lump sum. We are likely to be able to exchange the stamped money for the new ones gradually.

[PRACA] Have you abandoned the idea that a Slovak koruna should be exchanged for 10 Czechoslovak korunas?

[Toth] Not quite. However, not even in this case would a monetary reform be involved. The value would not change at all. On the contrary, in this regard, some revaluation could take place, since a better exchange rate of the Slovak koruna could be achieved with respect to foreign currencies.

[PRACA] Some people think that it is more advantageous to deposit money with the Czech banks.

[Toth] No one knows how the money will be exchanged in the Czech Republic; whether they will apply some restrictions on foreigners—on Slovak citizens. We are declaring that we will guarantee what is deposited in the Slovak banks, regardless of whether something extraordinary happens or not.

[PRACA] Are you going to exchange money deposited in the Slovak banks by Czech citizens?

[Toth] We are not preparing any restrictions for them, and money deposited by them will be exchanged in the identical exchange rate.

[PRACA] There are a substantial amount of Czechoslovak korunas abroad. Do you also guarantee their exchange in the 1:1 exchange rate?

[Toth] No. They got there illegally. We do not have convertible currency, we will not exchange them at all, and we are not going to support the illegal export of money.

[PRACA] Does this also apply to money deposited by our people abroad?

[Toth] Yes. This is their problem and the problems of the banks that accepted this money.

[PRACA] You have mentioned foreign currency. During the last days of 1992, many people were exchanging korunas for convertible currencies. Have they damaged our economy or have they done a good thing?

[Toth] What the people have taken out of the common coffers of the Federation should be deposited in Slovak banks. Anonymity is guaranteed for those who deposit convertible currency, despite the fact that the anonymity of koruna's deposits may not be guaranteed. Abroad, including Austria, this is a different thing. Because of this, it is more advantageous to deposit money in our banks.

Defense Chief on Army's Situation

LD1001212193 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1820 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Interview with Defense Minister Lajos Fur by unidentified reporter; place and date not given; recorded—from "The Week" program]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] HONVEDELEM 92 [National Defense 92], published this week, contains a precise description of the organizational structure of the Hungarian land and air forces as well as their number. The information reveals that the Hungarian Army is only able to fulfill its basic duties with maximum efforts.

[Reporter] What is this kind of revelation good for? Is it intended to show neighboring countries that we are unable to pursue the politics of revanchism with such an army?

[Fur] Well, this revelation was not meant for them but for the Hungarian public which was nearly hermetically sealed off from all the important military data, because this was treated as some kind of great state secret. For this reason, we would prefer that the Hungarian public know the internal life of the Hungarian Army, the data on it, its factual numbers, its condition, so that we can awaken sensitivity, or at least responsibility in Hungarian society regarding the defense of the country. As far as our neighbors are concerned, those who are experts there have already known, even without this publication, what the Hungarian Army is like.

[Reporter] It is widely debated what the Hungarian Army is actually capable of, whether it is capable of defending our borders, which is its main task, especially now that there is a war raging in the neighborhood.

[Fur] It should at last be decided by the thinkers that influence Hungarian public opinion which way is viable. One option is that we should remain in this condition in relation to our weaponry, so our neighbors will not accuse us of threatening anybody here, but in that case we expose the country and we might fail to ensure its sovereignty. The other way is, despite the sporadic remarks of our neighbors, to try to modernize this Army with all possible means and develop it into an army which will be capable of ensuring the independence of the Republic of Hungary, because this Army wants no other than that. We are undoubtedly behind our neighbors in relation to certain points concerning weaponry. Nevertheless, I can say that in general terms there is no big difference between the levels of military technique of the Hungarian Army and those of neighboring countries. There is some difference in certain categories of arms. I must say that the allegations that Hungary is arming itself, Hungary is preparing for a revanche, Hungary is threatening its neighbors, are unfounded. They are obvious slanders. I have to reject these in a most resolute manner. [passage omitted] We have constantly been depicted as if we were threatening somebody. However, this is out of the question. It would be good if this continuous slandering stopped. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Views Economic Prospects

AU1101133893 Budapest MTI in English 1711 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Budapest, 8 January (MTI)—Slight growth is expected in 1993, and conditions could improve for ordinary people, if upward trends noted at the end of 1992 continue, Minister of Finance Mihaly Kupa said at his press conference on Friday [8 January]. Kupa reported that, based on the last two years, the government's four-year economic programme has been revised. Basic goals remain unchanged, to create a social market economy, ensure economic stabilisation, and healthy growth. Emphasis in 1993 will be placed on speeding up privatization, developing financial and capital markets, and the further international integration of the country.

Talks with the International Monetary Fund are to be resumed shortly, Kupa said, with the IMF delegation arriving in Hungary this month. The Hungarian minister of finance said he believes the talks will be successful.

Antall Urges Unity at HDF National Congress

LD1001192793 Budapest MTI in English 1824 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Budapest, January 10 (MTI)—In its forthcoming 6th National Congress, the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) should demonstrate unity and gain strength. Unity, however, does not imply that the disputes are being swept under the carpet, Prime Minister and HDF chairman Jozsef Antall said at the party's national board session in Budapest on Sunday [10 January].

After the session, board chairman Agoston Szekelyhidi told the press that the congress would be held from January 22 to 24. The party's chairman and 20-member presidium are to be elected in a direct ballot on the first evening.

Up to now, six politicians have been nominated for the chairman's post. One of them, Istvan Csurka, announced in the Saturday session of the HDF populist-national circles that he would not accept nomination. Under the party statutes, he has to confirm his intention in writing, until noon on January 22, Szekelyhidi said.

The national congress will hold discussions in 12 sections. One of them will elaborate recommendations for amendments to the HDF statutes, which will be subject to the decision of the congress. Szekelyhidi said the HDF would like to renew both as a party and as a movement and keep four priorities in view: Internal democracy, continuity, ability of renewal, and businesslike operation.

Further Reportage on Minister Velayati Visit

Walesa Receives Iranian Minister

LD0801161393 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1000 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has been visiting Poland since 7 January. He was received by President Lech Walesa today. This report from Krystyna Koziol.

[Koziol] I am very glad, said the president, that we are meeting at the time when Poland is beginning to build a new system. Our diplomatic relations have many centuries of tradition behind them, he stressed. We are in Europe where two trends may be noticed: materialistic, rich, and this poorer. [sentence as heard] Surely you know, sir, said the president to the Iranian guest, that Poland is a country of believers. It would want, during this period of building, to preserve its spiritual values and combine them with materialism. Contacts with your country could make this building easier for us, said the president. The president also talked about new political situation in Europe. I hope, he ended while inviting the Iranian guest to working talks not diplomatic ones, that this visit will help us to answer many questions.

Discuss Changes in Both Countries

LD0801174593 Warsaw PAP in English 1645 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 8—President Lech Walesa on Friday [8 January] met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss changes taking place in the two countries, the presidential press bureau announced.

'Ali Akbar Velayati extended to Lech Walesa the Iranian president's invitation to pay an official visit to Iran.

Welcoming his guest, President Walesa stressed that Poland and Iran have centuries-old tradition of diplomatic relations and said he was happy that the meeting could take place at the moment when Poland is beginning to build a new system. The president stated that while building new political systems and striving for independence in the modern world, one should not forget about individuals.

Walesa pointed out that transformations ongoing in Poland and Europe create conditions facilitating the intensification of contacts between Poland and Iran, the details of which will be elaborated upon by individual ministries.

Suchocka, Velayati Discuss Trade

LD0801210493 Warsaw PAP in English 2042 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 8—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati ended on Friday [8 January] his two-day official visit to Poland aimed at expanding trade relations between the two countries.

During a meeting with Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka Friday afternoon the Iranian minister praised the programme of his visit and said the possibility to talk with the highest authorities of the country showed the will on the part of the two sides to maintain the many-year tradition of cooperation.

Hanna Suchocka received 'Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss above all bilateral economic relations. The Iranian side reiterated its declaration to keep up the supplies of oil for Poland and even to increase them. The sides also expressed their readiness to join the construction of an Iran-Europe international gas pipeline.

As concerning mutual relations, the Polish deputy minister for foreign economic relations is to visit Iran still this year while the Iranian deputy minister for foreign affairs is expected to come to this country.

Oil Supplies to Poland Unchanged

LD0801201093 Warsaw PAP in English 1843 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 8—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said at his Friday [8 January] meeting with Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka that Iran would keep the supplies of oil for Poland at an unchanged level, Deputy Foreign Minister Andrzej Ananicz told journalists.

The sides also discussed Poland's participation in a construction of a gas pipeline which is planned to deliver Iranian gas to Europe. Iran has the world largest deposits of gas.

Lithuanian Premier Pledges Aid to Compatriots

LD0801173393 Warsaw PAP in English 1527 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Suwalki, Jan. 8—Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys on Thursday [7 January] evening in Sejny, Suwalki Province, during a meeting with representatives of the Lithuanian minority in Poland promised aid for the creation of a Lithuanian cultural centre and consulate in Sejny. Participants in the meeting acquainted the premier with the political, language and cultural situation of Lithuanians in Poland.

According to head of the Association of Lithuanians in Poland Eugeniusz Pietruszkiewicz, the Lithuanian premier said that a Polish-Lithuanian treaty on good neighbourly relations and mutual friendship which is currently under preparation will include a clause on full mutuality in policy towards ethnic minorities and facilitate access of both minorities to state mass media.

Kuron Discusses Solution Reached With Miners

WS0701133893 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1855 GMT 5 Jan 93

["Seven Minutes for the Minister of Labor" with Labor Minister Jacek Kuron—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening. As everyone knows, for three weeks now we have been conducting lengthy negotiations with the trade unions from the regions and branches of industry that are on strike and with those that were threatening to start a strike. Apart from this, we are taking energetic measures with all of them, for we must always talk with trade unions.

What is more important, we managed to reach reasonable agreements with the strikers. This shows, this example proves the truth of the adage: No one can satisfy everyone. When we are not in a position to achieve agreement with strikers, when a strike goes on and on, everyone shouts at us that the government is inefficient, that the strike results in losses, and that we just cannot agree. When, however, we do agree, people raise a hue and cry and say that we make concessions, that we pay money, and this again results in losses. Well, it seems that it has to be this way, that someone is always complaining.

However, I would like to say that the second suggestion is, in this case, false. The government has taken part in the negotiations because they concern the restructuring of our economy, the transformation of our economy, which is the responsibility of the government. Since the very beginning, we have been willing to talk, we have discussed all these problems with the trade unions, and we have reached agreements, such as in the pact on state companies. We have not managed to sign the pact, and this is a pity, because some of the strikes might have been averted in this way. Due to the fact that we negotiated and did not forward bills to the Sejm quickly enough, there was some delay. But we think that an agreement with the working teams, working people in Poland, is extremely important for the process of transformation.

All these strikes and the negotiations conducted as a result of them show the defects that were inherent in the pact on companies. It is, first of all, the problem of restructuring and transformation, and programs concerning this problem in these key branches of industry. This goes for both the light industry in Lodz, the whole Lodz region, and mining, where we have just reached an agreement. The example of mining can best show the problem of restructuring and what we have managed to achieve in this area.

All over the world, the restructuring of mining has been effected. It was effected where the extraction of deposits was not profitable, where mines had to be closed down. The importance of the extraction industry in the world waned, and in those places, strikes broke out. They ended either, as in England, in the destruction of the strikers— they were on strike for over a year in vain—or as in other European countries, in the slowing down of the process, and in spending a lot of money from the budget for social protection, as it was in Sweden, for instance.

We do not have money in the budget, nor do we have time to wait. And so the understandable resistance of the miners which was expressed through the strikes, we managed to solve through negotiations, in a manner which is unique in the world. In our strike, as a result of the strike, or the agreement which we reached with the miners' Solidarity, we managed to come to the conclusion that the program of restructuring must be accelerated. There are over 60 mines in Silesia, and among them there are mines that extract good coal and do so very efficiently; but there are also mines that extract coal with difficulty, and there the coal, the deposits, and the extraction are practically unprofitable.

Therefore, an idea has been developed which suggests that seven companies be established. The companies would group all the mines: the weak mines are to be joined to the strong ones, and they, on their own, will be interested in achieving a reasonable balance sheet. In this connection, they will withdraw people, transfer them to other parts of the mine, withdraw people from the unprofitable deposits. They themselves will be interested in the rationalization of the extraction process. They will also have to close down some of the mines, not through layoffs, but through a minimum of layoffs and the natural process of not recruiting new employees, but retiring the old ones. Well, there have been troubles with this agreement, with such an attitude toward this problem. In this agreement that we have reached with the miners, we have managed to achieve acceleration.

The miners are counting on the companies to be able to start operating as early as 1 February. The boards of directors of these companies have already been chosen. The trade unions have agreed with the boards and assumed that if on 1 February the companies start operating, within the following two months they will manage to make up for the losses, and rationalize the production process to such a degree that they will achieve surplus money which will allow them to get a 10 percent raise in the middle of April. We must bear in mind that within four months, the pay would increase anyway by approximately 6 or 7 percent. In this connection, this is a risky decision, they hope that they will work to achieve this surplus money, they calculate it on their own account. Nevertheless, this is a price for the great acceleration of transformations in mining, for the great rationalization of the transformation in mining. This is a great benefit to the economy and to all of us.

And I must say that in all these agreements, especially in this one, but also in all the others, with railway workers, with the Lodz region which we have just opened, one can say that the spirit of Solidarity is reviving. Solidarity, is, after all, the property of all Poles. One can say that there is an understanding that the transformation and restructuring cannot be implemented without the support of working teams, without the support of the world of work. The world of work will achieve nothing without the economic transformation, without the implementation of the difficult program.

And despite the fact that a strike is never a reason for satisfaction, the agreements, the reviving of the spirit of

Solidarity, is a sign of optimism. And this is what we can be satisfied with. And this is a good sign for the new year. Good night.

Liberal Leader Reaffirms Support for Suchocka

LD0901153593 Warsaw PAP in English 1411 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 9—Leader of the Polish Liberal Programme (PPL) Donald Tusk on Saturday [9 January] said that the "support of liberals for Ms. Suchocka has not changed." Tusk was speaking following a meeting of the Presidium of the PPL with the prime minister summoned to discuss rules of the party's cooperation with the government after the PPL on Friday had voted differently than other coalition groupings on the VAT [value-added tax] and excise tax law.

"Liberals will consistently declare themselves for possibly law taxes," [as received] Tusk said. He added that the PPL would not accept a compromise in this field. According to Tusk, a difference of opinion between the PPL and the government is a result of "too little contact on the experts and politicians level."

Goryszewski Says Economy Improving

LD0801172493 Warsaw PAP in English 1515 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 8—Deputy Prime Minister Henryk Goryszewski, commenting on the economic outcome of six months of Hanna Suchocka Government, told the Radio "Zet" on Friday [8 January] that Poland's economic condition has improved. He said his opinion is supported by a 13-per cent rise in industrial production and the halting of the GNP downward tendencies as well as by the fact that the rise in unemployment was by one third smaller than expected and new workplaces have recently been created in certain regions of Poland. However, "much time would pass before all Poles noticed the improvement and agreed with him," as he put it.

Budget, Decommunization Bill Examined

AU1101122793 Warsaw PAP in English 2208 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 6—Economic issues connected with the 1993 draft budget on Wednesday [6 January] dominated in the debates of the Sejm (lower house) committees which met on the eve of the chamber's plenary sitting scheduled for Thursday.

Deputy Finance Minister Waldemar Manugiewicz warned the Budget and Legislative Committees that changes in the income tax schedule would result in the reduction of budget revenues by 7.5 trillion zlotys (over 500 million dollars). The Committee for Economic System and Industry expressed an opinion that the growth of personal income tax and turnover tax rates do not guarantee an improvement in the economic situation.

Members of the Committee for Economic System and Industry noted that the indices contained in the draft budget, when confronted with the current economic situation, do not guarantee the achievement of long-term goals, such as the development of private sector and suppressing recession.

The Committee for National Defence rejected the draft budget of the National Defence Ministry for 1993. The draft budget of the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Economy was conditionally accepted by a respective committee after Minister Zbigniew Jaworski declared that he would seek additional funds for the development of road and air transit routes in Poland from the World Bank and the European Investment Bank.

The Committee for Culture and Mass Media approved the draft of the 1993 budget for the Polish Press Agency (PAP). PAP president Ignacy Rutkiewicz told the committee that PAP, while still a government agency, plans to become an independent institution. About one fourth of state funds earmarked for PAP in 1993 will be destined for investments and modernization of the agency.

Four committees (for legislation, justice, national defence and administration and internal affairs) decided to ask the chamber to reject 4 out of the 6 draft laws on decommunization tabled by various floor groups and the Senate, namely those which the committees found the most restrictive.

Instead, they will propose the Sejm to examine two less restrictive drafts, submitted by the Confederation of Independent Poland (KPN) and the Liberal Democratic Congress (KLD). According to their drafts only persons who in the years 1944-90 worked for the communist civil and military secret services should not be allowed to hold important posts in the state administration.

The Committee for Constitutional Responsibility which discussed the legal aspect of the introduction of the 1981 martial law decided to devote its nearest meeting due January 12 and 13 to the issue.

The Standing Orders Committee will present its opinion about the deputies motion to recall the Sejm Presidium after consulting experts in the nearest days to come.

Politicans Comment on Income, Value-Added Taxes

AU0701173993 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 5 Jan 93 p 5

[Report by Piotr Zaremba: "How Much Should the State Get?"]

[Text] The introduction of personal income tax and value-added tax (VAT) is the beginning of a new fiscal system. Are taxes in Poland too high? Would a tax reduction revive the Polish economy? We put these

questions to politicians from the Union of Labor, Democratic Union, and Polish Convention.

Ryszard Bugaj (Union of Labor): Taxes in Poland are not too high. In Western Europe, the state budget consumes about 40 percent of the national income, but in Poland it only consumes 26 percent. The level of income tax in Poland is also lower than in countries with a normal market economy. Investigations have discounted the theory that a higher tax rate reduces productivity.

One can either let the economy develop on its own on the basis of private capital, or let the state promote this development. I prefer the second alternative because it results in a more dynamic budget—in other words, a nonreduction of taxes. The first alternative, favored by the liberals, causes glaring disproportions in wages that would be politically unacceptable.

The private sector in Poland pays virtually no taxes. Apart from agriculture, this sector only provided 3 percent of the state's income in 1991. Now, private businesses are promising to make up the budget deficit. The basic problem is to implement taxes effectively, even at the cost of a monopoly—for example, a monopoly in fuel or liquor imports.

Jan Krol (Democratic Union): A reduction in taxes should be the long-term objective. The highest rate of income tax could be 30 percent. Right now it is 40 percent. The rate of VAT, about to replace turnover tax, is 22 percent. It was supposed to be 17 percent, and even that is too much. In the struggle against the budget deficit, the government is resorting to the simplest methods. An excessive rate of tax frequently diminishes the amount of income generated by taxes.

That is why the Union opposes increasing the highest tax rate to 50 percent. Such ideas by the government conceal an inability to control financial matters. The fact that the Sejm is burdening the budget with legislation costing trillions of zlotys is a different matter.

A reduction in taxes need not cause an economic revival because our economy's efficiency is hampered by other factors, such as the inefficiency of state enterprises. It is not just taxes that are a burden on enterprises, but also, for example, high insurance premiums.

The new tax system is only just taking shape, but a major problem is the ambiguity of many rules. For instance, can the cost of refurbishing my mother's house in which I live be deducted from income tax? Without a full computerization of tax records, we are going to have total chaos.

Pawel Zalewski (Polish Convention): The present tax system is designed solely to generate income, not stimulate economic growth. Income tax is too high.

The source of the country's wealth lies in the wealth of individuals, therefore the tax system should let them become wealthy and encourage them to invest the capital they have earned. The rate of income tax should be reduced, investments encouraged, and excessive consumption "punished." This can be done by shifting the center of gravity away from income tax and onto VAT, which acts as a burden on consumption. VAT can remain at its present level, but on condition that there are income tax concessions.

Capital spending should be deductible from income tax. In addition, the tax system should stimulate domestic output. That is why our parliamentary club has spoken out in favor of abolishing the so-called import duty on raw materials and components used for production that is destined for export. By taxing these commodities, we are making our own production more expensive and destroying its competitiveness.

Inter-Party Jobless Committee Established

LD1001224493 Warsaw PAP in English 2221 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 10—An inter-party Committee of the Jobless was set up in Warsaw on Sunday [10 January] during a meeting of representatives of 17 political groupings. Ludwik Anders, with no party affiliation, was elected chairman of the organizations's main board. The committee Deputy Chairman Armin Zielinski told PAP that the organization is of a national character and "that its task is to help the jobless by all lawful means."

Iliescu Receives Council of Europe Parliamentarian

AU0801220693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1735 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 8/1/1993—The Romanian president, Ion Iliescu, received Friday, January 8, at Cotroceni Palace, Jean Pierre Masseret, deputy chairman of the French delegation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The French parliamentarians said the interview with the Romanian president had been the last in the schedule of his visit in Romania, intended as part of the demarches of the French delegation at the Council of Europe for Romania's adherence to this body. He opined that Romania could shortly become a full member of the Council of Europe and attend in that capacity the meeting of the heads of the European Community states, scheduled for October 1993 in Vienna.

Parliamentarians Talk With French Official

AU0701191493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1747 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 7/1/1993—Thursday, 7 January, Senate President Oliviu Gherman and Lower House Speaker Adrian Nastase received Jean Pierre Masseret, vice president of the French delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, now on a visit in Romania.

After the talks, the French guest told the press he had had a useful exchange of opinions on the arguments that could be advanced in support of Romania's adherence as full member of the Council of Europe. Romania's admission to the Council of Europe, the French parliamentarian said, would be beneficial for Romania as a recognition of what this country had achieved in its drive towards democracy. Romania's adherence to the Council of Europe would be equally welcome for Europe, as Romania is a factor of stability and necessary to Europe.

The French parliamentarian made a point of saying that "on this subject, our opinions coincided," and added: "as far as I am concerned, I believe there are objective reasons for Romania to become a member of the Council of Europe." The French delegate also said that Romania's stability became all the more obvious when the instability zones bordering its western and eastern frontiers were considered.

Oliviu Gherman said that "the talk with Jean Pierre de Masseret was free of any rigidities and its main point was the settlement, on the part of both sides, of Romania's joining the Council of Europe as a full member."

Asked to express his view on the talks, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Adrian Nastase defined it in the following terms: "The discussion pivoted around the biased objections still raised against Romania's acceptance to the Council of Europe. I think that, from this point of view, Mr. Masseret found our talks interesting. We gave him our comments, especially on the subject of minority rights, explaining that as long as the issue sticks to the human rights regulations, the question poses no problems. Difficulties appear only if the minorities issue is handled as an alternative political instrument. The differences are therefore probably obvious for any keen observer between the descriptions given abroad to minorities problems: They are nonextant for 13 of the minorities in Romania, and only one minority is shown as having difficulties in the recognition of its rights. It must be clearly explained that we cannot set up 'Bantustans' for the privileged, for minorities, that we cannot proceed towards democratization at different speeds, one for the majority and one for the minorities." In the same line of thought, Mr. Nastase continued: "This country has to cope with many hardships. Therefore one should not compare the standard of minorities in Romania with, say, the standard of the majority in Germany. It can be only compared to the general standard of the majority in Romania. It is only in ill-faith that one could try to transfer difficulties unavoidably stemming from the profound changes Romania is undergoing, into a context that might furnish political significance for alternative strategies with very evident political purport."

More on Parliamentary Talks

AU0801191393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1512 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 8/1/1993—"We will back Romania to be accepted in the Council of Europe starting the first trimester of this year as a country with full rights," said Jean-Pierre Masseret, member of the French parliamentary delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe [COE], after an interview on January 8 with Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu.

The Romanian premier and the French guest approached a number of questions related to the course of the reform and the consolidation of democratic processes in Romania.

Jean-Pierre Masseret said it was necessary for Romania to find its place in the European aggregate so as to be able to attend the meeting of the heads of state of the countries in the membership of the Council of Europe, due in Vienna in October.

Teodor Melescanu, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, met Friday, January 8, with Jean-Pierre Masseret, deputy chairman of the French delegation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the COE.

After this interview, Mr. Masseret told the press that his opinion on the role of Romania as a factor of stability in Europe, considering the developments east and west of this country, have been confirmed by the visit. He added that his visit was intended at having all the elements put together for Romania's adherence to COE. "My presence

in Bucharest must be seen as a confirmation of the will of the French delegation at COE to act in such a way as to help Romania to join COE in 1993," said Jean-Pierre Masseret. For his part, the Romanian foreign minister told the press: "I have wanted to offer Mr. Masseret arguments for his discussions with people having justified or maybe unjustified doubts as far as Romania's admission to COE is concerned. I think I have been in a position to give him elements he has not known, as well as certain interpretations, such as an optimistic view of the relations between our country and Hungary, which, I think, will play a rather important role in Romania's adherence to COE. I consider I have also clarified certain aspects of our ties with Moldova and with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States."

Ministry 'Firmly Condemns' Turajlic's Assassination

AU0901162393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1611 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 9/1/1993—In a statement released Saturday, January 9, in Bucharest, the Foreign Ministry of Romania expresses its "worry, and firmly condemns the assassination of the vice premier of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Hakija Turajlic, in an act that can only be qualified as terrorist." Taking into account that this regrettable event has occurred at a moment when sustained efforts are being made to bring a solution to the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina, in which the two copresidents of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia are involved, the Foreign Ministry of Romania expresses its hope that "the realistic and responsible forces will find a way to overcome this moment and continue the efforts towards a settlement of the complicate problems in the area."

New Foreign Ministry Departments, Leaders Listed

AU1001195893 Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian 5 Jan 93 p 4

[Article by Irina Zidaru: "Less Than Two Months After Teodor Melescanu's Appointment, the Government Has Approved a New Structure for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs"]

[Text]

Six New Departments Led by a State Secretary Have Been Approved

As of 1 January, less than two months after Teodor Melescanu's appointment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had a new structure that had been approved by the government. Six departments, each led by a secretary of state, and four new directorates have been established. The ministry leadership includes the foreign minister and seven secretaries of state: Traian Chebeleu, secretary of state and deputy foreign minister [since appointed counselor to the Romanian president]; Constantin Ene, head of the Multilateral Relations Department; Marcel Dinu, head of Coordination, Analysis, and Relations With the Republic of Moldova Department; Ion Gorita, head of the Europe and North America Department; Gheorghe Tinca, head of the Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Australia Department; Adrian Dohotaru, state secretary and head of the Culture, Press, and Relations with the Diaspora Department; and Marin Mitris, head of the Finance and Communications Department.

Two of the new secretaries of state (Ene and Mitris) held the same positions in the former ministry structure, while Tinca and Dohotaru were formerly in charge of the same issues while holding the posts of undersecretary of state. Dinu used to be director of the Political Analysis and Information Directorate and Gorita headed the West Europe Directorate.

The Directorate for Relations with Romanians Living Beyond the Borders of Our Country has also been established, but no director has been appointed. Likewise, three new general directorates have been established: the General Directorate for Logistics, the General Directorate for International Economic Relations, and the General Directorate for Legal and Consular Affairs, led respectively by Vasile Tanase, Nicolae Ionescu, and Ion Diaconu.

Arms Reduction Under Paris Treaty Discussed

AU0801150093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1044 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 8/1/1993—"The reduction of Romania's conventional arms, limited under the Paris Treaty (of the CSCE member countries) will bring about in a few years' time also a reduction of effectives [number of troops]," opines in daily LIBERTATEA Romanian Defense Minister Niculae Spiroiu. The likely percentage he mentioned will be some 15 percent. If spaced out by years, he added, it may well fit in the quotas of pensioning-off, passing to reserve, and "natural" loss of the Army. "Hence, one cannot speak of purges and unemployment in the Army." Asked whether the arms reduction in Romania was not premature, given the situation in Yugoslavia and in the Dniester Republic, Spiroiu said: "There is an obligation, a covenanted timetable. We have to comply with certain quotas in two-three years, scrapping the arms according to endorsed methods. But it is not only Romania that is doing so, all European countries are. We have only made tests so far. We are trying various methods that should cost as little as possible."

Deputy Prime Minister Fatally Shot by Serb Troops

AU0801210893 Paris AFP in English 2053 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Sarajevo, Jan 8 (AFP)—Hakija Turajlic, the Bosnian economy minister and a deputy premier, died after being shot by Serbian forces in Sarajevo Friday [8 January], said a diplomat at Bosnia-Hercegovina's mission here.

The official, Miles Raguz, said that gunmen opened fire on a vehicle carrying Turajlic. The vehicle was hit by eight shots and the politican was declared dead immediately, Raguz said.

Earlier in Sarajevo, Ejup Ganic, the number two in the collegial Bosnian presidency said Serbs had halted a U.N. armoured car taking Turajlic to the airport and opened fire on him with automatic weapons, wounding him critically. [passage omitted]

Met with Turkish Official

TA0801200093 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpt] State Minister Orhan Kilercioglu has said that Turkey cannot remain indifferent to the plight of Turks and Muslims in the world. In addition to Bosnia-Hercegovina, he said, we will help Macedonia and Albania as well.

Kilercioglu was received at Sarajevo Airport by Hakija Turajlic, a deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Hercegovina. After being briefed by Turajlic on the latest situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Kilercioglu stated that a human tragedy is being staged in that country and that the United Nations cannot fulfill its duties as expected of it. He pointed out that of the $50 million Turkey will extend to Bosnia-Hercegovina in aid, $20 million has already been delivered. A mobile hospital and construction materials will be sent to Bosnia-Hercegovina within this framework, he said, adding that a refugee camp will be set up in Edirne for the Bosnian refugees who arrive in Turkey.

Kilercioglu pointed out that Bosnia-Hercegovina expects Turkey to play a key role in ending the war. Turkey cannot remain indifferent to the plight of Turks and Muslims in the world, he said.

Hakija Turajlic said that Turkey plays an active role regarding the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He pointed out that close to half of Bosnia-Hercegovina is under their control, that they do not want foreign troops, and that they want the problem to be resolved peacefully. He stressed that the Serbs must be punished and that they must pay compensation. In the next stage, he said, Bosnia-Hercegovina must acquire a democratic structure.

Turajlic said that they have a shortage of food and medicine, and that aid cannot be delivered to some 250,000 persons besieged in nine areas. He said that aid to these people can be delivered only by means of helicopters but that nothing came of their application to the United Nations in connection with this matter.

Turajlic said that the Serbs continue to carry out atrocities in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and that it has been established that the Serbs raped close to 30,000 Muslim women.

Meanwhile, due to security reasons, Kilercioglu has been refused permission by the United Nations to visit Sarajevo.

The state minister left Sarajevo Airport for Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. In Zagreb tomorrow, he will assess the situation with the advisers of the president and prime minister of Bosnia-Hercegovina. [passage omitted]

Turajlic Buried in Sarajevo

AU0901160193 Paris AFP in English GMT 1539 9 Jan 93

[Report by Christian Millet]

[Text] Sarajevo, Jan 9 (AFP)—Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic, the most prominent victim in Bosnia's nine months of bloodshed, was quickly buried in a short service Saturday [9 January] less then a day after a Serbian gunman shot him while under U.N. escort.

No member of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) was present at the funeral, which took place under a heavy snowfall in a Moslem cemetery beside a Sarajevo mosque next the Bosnian president's office.

His family, friends and the number two man in the Bosnian Government, Ejup Ganic, were among several dozen people who attended the initial funeral service, barely recovered from the shock of the assassination that drew vigorous condemnation outside the country.

Turajlic's distraught widow, two daughters, 16 and 18 years old, and his elder brother, Alija Turajlic, cried silently, vainly trying to contain their grief during the half-hour service.

They had formally identified the body only hours earlier in a city morque, surrounded by other bodies and morgue workers hammering coffins.

The deputy prime minister was shot seven times Friday while he was aboard an armored U.N. car manned by French troops when it was halted by two Serbian tanks near Sarajevo airport.

The guests paid their last respects to the deputy premier, filing by his body wrapped in a green shroud covered with the blue Bosnian flag with its six golden fleurs-de-lis crossed by a white stripe.

Then in line with Moslem custom, his body was passed from shoulder to shoulder down the main staircase,

through the door and carried along an 80-meter (yard) st.etch lined by bodyguards in camouflage uniforms to the cemetery of the Ali Pasina mosque.

The snow-covered plot awaiting Turajlic was the only freshly dug grave in this ancient Moslem cemetery, pock-marked by repeated shelling from the nine-month Serbian siege around the Bosnian capital.

The body was turned towards Mecca and lowered into the ground as a crowd of about 200 who gathered in the cemetery recited verses from the Koran, led by an imam.

In the heavy snowfall, only about 30 kneeled to the ground, as is customary, while the rest remained standing.

Ganic led the Bosnian government official delegation to the funeral, in the absence of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic who was in France Saturday before heading onto the Geneva for the resumption of the Yugoslav peace conference Sunday.

Ganic was part of the human chain that led Turajlic's body to his grave, and was the first to throw a shovelfull of earth onto the grave.

As he was buried, UNPROFOR military leaders here held a press conference to answer questions on the shooting Friday.

The U.N. commander in Bosnia-Hercegovina, French General Philippe Morillon, vowed to remain in his post despite the assassination under French escort, saying "the captain does not abandon the bridge" when the ship confronts the storm.

Government Issues Communique

LD0901201393 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Bosnia-Hercegovina Government held a session today in connection with the brutal murder of Vice Premier Hakija Turajlic. Here is a communique from the session:

The Government of Bosnia-Hercegovina adopted—as the first step in negotiations—a decision to charge the state delegation in Geneva with demanding of chairmen Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen to make sure that the aggressor shows concrete readiness to find a solution for restoring peace, which means:

First, all aggressors' attacks in the territory of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina must stop, and free movement of humanitarian aid convoys must be allowed. Aid is first to be delivered to the most threatened areas, such as Zepa, Srebrenica, Cerska, Gorazde, and Konjevic Polje.

Second, we demand that the chairmen of the Geneva negotiations speak in the UN Security Council in favor of urgent change of UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] mandate in Bosnia-Hercegovina in order for the international military forces to stop being passive observers or accessary in crimes, and to become capable of protecting the civilian population, providing water and electricity supply and delivering humanitarian aid to all threatened areas. In connection with this, the government demands that the status of Sarajevo airport be changed, so it could be used for the needs of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina with full protection of the international forces.

Third, the government again demands of the chairmen of the Geneva conference to use their influence to lift the embargo on the import of arms for the defense of Bosnia-Hercegovina against the Nazi aggression.

Fourth, because of the obvious responsibility which UNPROFOR commander for Bosnia-Hercegovina Gen Phillipe Morillon, and UNPROFOR commander for Sarejevo Gen Abdul Razek share with the people who actually committed the crime, the government of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina says that they are not enjoying the confidence of the government and citizens of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the public communique of the government of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina issued after today's meeting says.

Government Holds UNPROFOR Responsible

LD0901000893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2300 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] The Presidency and Government of Bosnia-Hercegovina are informing the citizens of their country and the international public that the aggression and crimes of the greater Serbian Nazis against Bosnia-Hercegovina and its citizens continue. On 8 January 1993, Hakija Turajlic, deputy prime minister and acting head of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Government, was brutally murdered by chetnik criminals on the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR]-controlled road to Sarajevo, in an armored personnel carrier belonging to UNPROFOR, and in the presence of UNPROFOR soldiers and officers.

Apart from the immediate culprits behind the crime, the Presidency and Government of Bosnia-Hercegovina also hold responsible General Philippe Morillon, UNPROFOR commander for Bosnia-Hercegovina, and General Abdul Razek, commander of UNPROFOR's units in the Sarajevo sector, especially considering the fact that they did not present all the evidence they possess about the Greater Serbian aggression and crimes against the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina to the world public.

The Presidency and Government of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina demand an urgent session of the Security Council, reiterating their demand for the Security Council and the entire international community to effect the cessation of the aggression and crimes against the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and its peoples with all available means and in accordance with the rights of this state and its peoples to self-defense.

Ganic Orders Halt to Talks

LD0901101193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Ejup Ganic, member of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina who is at present deputizing for the absent president of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, (?given the impossibility) of convening a meeting of the Presidency, has sent a call to our delegation in Geneva not to take part in further talks until [word indistinct] guarantees are given that the aggressor side is ready for peace. The murder of Deputy Prime Minister Turajlic (?and the constant firing) on humanitarian aid convoys, (?the unprecedented) shelling of refugee convoys, and the [word indistinct] bombing of villages and towns, clearly shows that the aggressor is not prepared for serious talks nor (?to respect) the international community and United Nations, according to a statement from [words indistinct] of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Serbs Issue Statement

LD0901163693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1421 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Sarajevo, 9 Jan (TANJUG)—The Serb Republic Army General Staff today issued a statement on yesterday's incident at Sarajevo airport and on the circumstances behind the assassination of Hakija Turajlic, deputy prime minister of the Muslim government. The statement of the General Staff information service reads:

At 1430, a Turkish plane landed at Sarajevo airport. Sixty Turkish nationals, not previously announced, came out of the plane. When they were discovered, UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] spokesman Magnusson decided that they should all be sent back to Turkey on the same plane. Colonel Sartre was charged with ensuring that this was done. In the meantime, five to six Turks managed to get across to the Muslim-held part of the city while the others waited at the airport. A while later, the UNPROFOR managed to transport all the Turkish nationals to Kiseljak. It is not clear to us how this happened, given the mandate of the UNPROFOR in the former Bosnia-Hercegovina.

At about 1700, at our checkpoint in Kasindolska Street—in a routine procedure—a check was carried out on a UNPROFOR armored personnel carrier transporting, among other people, Col. Sartre, commander of the French battalion, and Hakija Turajlic, deputy prime minister of the Muslim government, to meet the Turks in Kiseljak.

When our soldiers at the checkpoint established that Mr. Turajlic had not been announced they wanted to hold him until the competent authorities arrived. However, the commander of the French battalion aimed a pistol at our soldiers, while Mr. Turajlic, swearing and insulting, manifested a high degree of hatred, which adversely affected one of the soldiers there, most of whose family had been slaughtered by Muslims earlier. The soldier fired a shot with his personal pistol, injuring Mr. Turajlic. Unfortunately, we learned later on that Turajlic succumbed to his injury while receiving treatment from French doctors.

May we stress once again that the Serb Republic Army handed over Sarajevo airport to UNPROFOR for the delivery of humanitarian aid, as specified by the existing agreement. However, the airport was used on several occasions for supplying the Muslim side with arms and military equipment, as well as for the transport of mujahidin and members of the Muslim army, which was a flagrant violation of the principles and agreements signed by the United Nations.

We hope that this tragic incident will not significantly change the otherwise correct relations between the Serb Republic Army and the UNPROFOR, the statement ends.

Serb Army Blames UNPROFOR

LD1001182593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1641 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Jan (TANJUG)—In response to an incident which took place on 8 January on Serb territory in the vicinity of Sarajevo airport, the General Staff of the Army of the Serb Republic [of Bosnia-Hercegovina] today sent a protest letter to the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] command for former Bosnia-Hercegovina. The following is a statement issued by the information office of the General Staff of the Army of the Serb republic:

The authorities and the Serb Republic Army have so far demonstrated a high level of cooperation and fair conduct in helping to implement UNPROFOR's humanitarian mandate on the territory of former Bosnia-Hercegovina. On several occasions representatives of the General Staff of the Army of the Serb Republic warned UNPROFOR representatives about the need to strictly adhere to their humanitarian mission. At the same time the General Staff continued to emphasize its principled attitude at checkpoints in carrying out the necessary identification of people and inspection of the content of vehicles in order to prevent any abuses of humanitarian convoys and to enhance mutual confidence. Inspections are carried out swiftly and efficiently.

Despite all this, some irresponsible and insensitive individuals have on several occasions misused UNPROFOR's humanitarian mission by allowing transport of arms, equipment, and personnel for the opposing side. A particularly drastic example is the transport across Serb-held territory of Muslim commanders and political leaders from one location to another, who would afterwards direct combat activities and carry out ethnic cleansing and genocide against the civilian population.

The latest incident, when Muslim Government Vice Premier Hakija Turajlic was without prior announcement taken through the Serb territory to meet and welcome mercenaries—jihad warriors from Turkey—at Sarajevo airport which Serbs conceded for humanitarian purposes, is a confirmation of UNPROFOR's abuse of its authority.

The death of Hakija Turajlic is ultimately a consequence of backroom dealings by irresponsible and ill-intentioned individuals and the misuse of UNPROFOR's humanitarian mission.

We hope that the humanitarian mandate will in the future be adequately respected, and that the incident itself will not be abused in order to create doubts about the continuation of the negotiations on restoring peace in this area, as the Muslim side has been announcing.

President Cosic Condemns Killing

LD0901210293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2035 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Jan (TANJUG)—FRY President Dobrica Cosic severely condemns the killing of Muslim official Hakija Turajlic, sincerely hoping that this act will not bring the peace negotiations in Geneva to a deadlock, the office of the FRY president announced this evening. President Cosic will go to Geneva tomorrow to attend the continuation of the peace negotiations as the head of the FRY delegation.

Assassination Condemned Internationally

AU0901142293 Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 9 (AFP)—Serbian leaders did not comment Saturday [9 January] on the assassination of Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Hajika Turajlic, but it drew vigorous condemnation elsewhere.

Belgrade media did not report Friday's assassination of Turajlic by a Serb gunman in Sarajevo while he was under U.N. protection until midday Saturday, when the news agency TANJUG announced the killing, quoting the U.N. Protection Force in Sarajevo.

Turajlic was buried Saturday in a cemetery beside a Sarajevo mosque near the Bosnian president's office. The U.N. peacekeeping force did not send a representative to the burial, watched by a small crowd, according to an AFP reporter.

The U.N. Security Council condemned the shooting as an "outrageous act of terrorism."

The "deputy foreign minister" of the self-proclaimed Serb Republic in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Todor Dutina, told AFP by telephone that the assassination was a "ploy" by the Bosnian Moslems to obtain U.S. military intervention in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He said that he had doubts about the "presumed Serbian" identity of the assassin.

But late Friday, the commander of Bosnian Serbs, General Ratko Mladic, "deplored" the killing in a speech to the Serbs' assembly.

U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, and the chairmen of the international conference on former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, said the killing should not be allowed to stop the Geneva peace process with talks there scheduled to resume on Sunday.

"Despite the tragic assassination that has taken place...we must give peace a last chance," Butrus-Ghali said in Paris.

Vance and Owen pledged that the United Nations would investigate and punish those responsible.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, visiting Algiers, said the Bosnian official had been the victim of a "cowardly assassination."

"It is an act of rare cowardliness to kill somebody in this way by attacking an unarmed civilian under the protection of the United Nations," Dumas told reporters.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel denounced the "barbaric act of terror," saying he was "outraged and distressed" by what he described as a "provocation and challenge to the United Nations and its member states."

He said the killing aimed to "shake the efforts under way to put an end via peaceful means to the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina."

Turkish President Turgut Ozal sent a message of condolence to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, saying he had been shocked by the "massacre" of the deputy prime minister.

Such a "crime" he said, "shows once again how far the Serbs will go to undermine the mediation efforts."

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel branded the assassination a "savage act."

Morillon Reacts to Shooting

LD0901145493 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with General Morillon, UN Protection Force commander in Sarajevo, by anchorman Bruno Masure and Francois Coronet—live]

[Text] [Masure] We now have General Morillon talking to us live from Sarajevo. As you know, communications are not easy. Do you hear us General?

[Morillon] Yes, I can hear you.

[Masure] A first question, then I will be interviewing you with Francois Cornet. We do not quite understand, why was the door of the armored vehicle opened?

[Morillon] Well, it is simple. We were not previously informed about the importance of this delegation, and we were notified very late. The armored vehicle, which was on standby for this kind of contingency and which was sent with a crew, was stopped on its return from the airport. When, as far as I know, we were informed, we immediately sent the Serbian liaison officer and the Bosnian liaison officer, and we asked Colonel Sartre to go to the spot to negotiate freedom of passage. I think it was at the moment of the arrival of the Serbian officer that the door was opened to allow him to communicate with Mr. Turajlic...

[Cornet, interrupting] During these reportedly heated negotiations, did the Serbs know of the importance of the passenger you were carrying in your armored vehicle?

[Morillon] I do not think so. I believe that what they told us, which probably reflects the truth, is that they saw a Turkish plane landing in the airport, that they perhaps thought—given the paranoia of some fighters—that this plane was bringing soldiers to attack them. Therefore, I think that the reaction of the Serbs was the result of this reflex.

[Cornet] But couldn't you prevent this militiaman from opening the door of the armored vehicle, and shouldn't you, in the context of your mission, intervene? Should you let it happen?

[Morillon] No, it is definitely out of the question to deny responsibility in this affair. The deputy prime minister was under our protection, even if we did not know that we were carrying him. It would have been the same for any of our passengers. The problem was explained at the press conference we held a while ago. The mission of Col. Sartre, who was in charge of negotiations in this affair, was to calm things down. And that is what we have done several times during the last few months. It is a way to avoid the shedding of blood. What happened, in its tragic simplicity, is that at the very moment these negotiations were about to reach a result, at the moment when the Serbian officer and local commander gave his men the order to withdraw and to give free passage, at the moment when Col. Sartre—whom, I remind you, risked his life to intervene with weapon in hand to protect his passenger—at the moment when that door was about to be closed, it was then that a soldier fired, realizing that his prisoner was about to escape from him.

[Cornet] Well, General, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has declared in Algiers that he regretted that circumstances did not allow the punishment, I quote, of the criminal and that he deserved to be punished there and then. Could you, in the confusion, neutralize this Serbian militiaman, using weapons, at the moment when you saw that he was about to fire at the passenger?

[Morillon] No, not at that moment. You know that Col. Sartre was himself pushed aside and that the militiaman fired from over Sartre's shoulder. This happened within a few seconds or even a fraction of seconds. And you also know that after this assassination, the Serbs, who realized the catastrophe they provoked, withdrew immediately. The mission at that moment was to attempt to save the life of the deputy prime minister. I, therefore, perfectly understand the reaction of Col. Sartre, who proceeded to the hospital as soon as possible...

[Masure, interrupting] A final question, General, as time is running out. The Bosnian Government is officially considering you personally responsible for the killing of the deputy prime minister. Do you accept this responsibility, and what will you be doing in future?

[Morillon] Well, I will meet the Bosnian Government again. I understand perfectly their reaction. I understand perfectly their bitterness and their anger and I said that I shared it. At the moment the ship is facing the storm, you understand that it is impossible for the captain to abandon the helm. So, I remain at my post. I remain here in Sarajevo and I will immediately meet Dr. Ejup Ganic, the vice president, who I think is starting to understand that all this is a tragedy, and we should do everything to prevent it from leading to a catastrophe.

French Minister Issues Statement

AU0901152193 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Paris, Jan 9 (AFP)—The following is the text of a statement by the French Defence Minister, Pierre Joxe, on "the circumstances of the assassination" of Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic:

"On Friday January 8, at about 4:30 p.m. (1530 GMT), the French infantry battalion in Sarajevo learned via the radio network that an armoured vehicle from the command company had been stopped at the Serbian roadblock in Kasindol Street, 400 metres (yards) from the airport because one of its passengers was unable to produce documents permitting free passage.

"At the same moment, another armoured vehicle had been stopped at the same roadblock. The Serbs wanted to detain one of the civilian workers with the battalion, even though his papers were in order.

"The head of the battalion, Colonel Sartre, went to the scene and negotiated the passage of the armoured vehicle in which the civilian worker was travelling. He also negotiated the passage of two troop carriers belonging to British troops, in which there were Moslem passengers and drivers from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) whom the Serbs did not want to let through, and of two Ukrainian armoured vehicles."

"The roadblock was formed by tracked armoured vehicles armed with 25 millimetre canons and about 50 militiamen armed with anti-tank weapons, Kalashnikov assault rifles and other automatic weapons. The militia got into an argument with the head of the French battalion about the passenger of the command company's armoured vehicle. They had recognised the

Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic, accused the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) of 'complicity with their enemy' and became increasingly aggressive."

"The French officer tried to negotiate passage of the last armoured vehicle with local leaders who had arrived on the scene, whom he knew. During the course of the discussion, which lasted close to one hour and 45 minutes, the tension continued to mount. The highest-ranking Serb said he was going to seize the passenger of the French armoured vehicle. Colonel Sartre positioned himself in front of the back door to the vehicle, with a legionnaire on either side of him. A Serb militiaman forcibly kept the door open."

"The head of the French battalion and the two legionnaires were held at gunpoint, at point-blank range, for nearly half an hour, facing two rocket propelled grenades and five automatic weapons.

"Meanwhile, the Serb leaders were persuaded to await orders from their superiors and undertook to lessen the tension among their militiamen."

"The tension had almost dropped and the French officer was hoping to be able to negotiate closure of the doors of the armoured vehicle when two or three very angry militiamen tried to pull him out of the doorway. The Serb leaders intervened. One of the militiamen then stepped back and brandished a high-calibre pistol, firing several shots over the left shoulder of the head of the French battalion, in the direction of the Bosnian minister."

"The Serb militiaman was overcome by his fellow soldiers, then broke free and was able to fire several other shots. Visibly frightened by what had just happened, the Serb leaders immediately opened the road to allow evacuation of the wounded man. The Bosnian deputy premier was immediately taken to a medical centre in the post office building, where it was established that he had died."

French Witness Describes Event

AU0901181993 Paris AFP in English 1756 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Report by Patrick Lescot]

[Text] Sarajevo, Jan 9 (AFP)—The Serb militiaman who assassinated Bosnian deputy prime minister Hakija Turajlic was acting against the orders of his superiors, the French colonel who witnessed the murder said here Saturday [9 January].

Speaking to journalists, Colonel Patrice Sartre said the assassin had shot the Muslim minister, who was sitting in a UN armoured car, despite the shouts and warning shots of Serbian officers.

Sartre and the commander of the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Philippe Morillon, were recounting Friday's assassination to the press in the Bosnian capital.

The conference became stormy as the two senior officers tried to defend the role of UNPROFOR, which was supposedly escorting Turajlic in a convoy from Sarajevo airport into town when they ran into a Serbian road-block manned by 50 militiamen and two armoured personnel carriers.

UNPROFOR soldiers, said the general, his voice full of emotion, "are prepared to give their lives" in the name of "dignity, freedom and respect for human rights".

The still-unnamed assassin, who wore jeans and a black jersey, was a "working-class person who did not have sufficient military training", said Sartre.

Serbian officers have told UNPROFOR the assassin has been arrested.

Detailing the event, the Colonel—a graduate of France's top military school, St. Cyr, and a veteran of the Chad campaign—said that after 45 minutes of angry negotiations at the road-block, things seemed to be calming down.

The colonel, who was supported by only two Foreign Legionnaires, was on the point of closing the armoured car's doors, when three Serbian militiamen surged forward and pushed him aside.

"They wanted to pull Turajlic out of the car, but their officers tried to stop them by shouts and by firing shots behind them," Sartre said.

One of the three militiamen pulled out a pistol and opened fire on the minister "who was sitting very calm".

The Serb "was five metres (yards) from me, and I knew his officers very well," said Sartre, who has had numerous negotiations with the Serb forces.

Afterwards, the Serb officers were "extremely dejected". They immediately lifted the road-block, allowing the UNPROFOR convoy to pass.

"It was a case of 50 against two," concluded Sartre.

But Morillon conceded that the armoured car's doors should never have been opened to allow the Serbs to look inside.

Sartre said the doors had been opened before his arrival, and that the militia refused to allow him to close them.

He admitted that he had not used his radio to call for reinforcements. "When one flies the UN flag, one should solve problems by negotiation," he said.

Turkish Official on Assassination

TA0901121893 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Report by Yavuz Yorulmaz from Zagreb]

[Text] State Minister Orhan Kilercioglu, who is conducting contacts in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, declared that the assassination of Turajlic, deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Hercegovina, constitutes the latest example of the murders committed in Bosnia-Hercegovina and once again demonstrates that the United Nations is ineffectual. Kilercioglu recalled that when the humanitarian aid material transported from Turkey was being unloaded at Sarajevo airport, he asked the United Nations for permission to enter the city, but the request was denied on security grounds. Kilercioglu said: This incident could have been planned against the Turkish delegation and the members of the press if they had entered the city.

Kilercioglu reported that during his meeting with Turajlic at Sarajevo airport yesterday, he was briefed in detail on the situation of humanitarian aid and he dispatched his adviser to Zagreb to assess the situation. Pointing out that aid must be delivered urgently by helicopters to 250,000 people who cannot be reached otherwise, Kilercioglu remarked that Turkey will apply to the United Nations for this purpose.

During our reportage at Sarajevo airport yesterday, Turajlic had declared that as a result of Turkey's active policy on the subject of Bosnia-Hercegovina, certain European countries changed their approach to the matter. Turajlic had said that he does not believe that the Geneva talks will yield any results and that the talks will merely provide the Serbs with more time. Turajlic was killed by Serbs only shortly after he had seen off the Turkish team at the airport.

Meanwhile, Kilercioglu began his contacts in Zagreb. He is touring the refugee camps housing Bosnians.

[Also in its 1100 GMT newscast, Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network reports that "President Turgut Ozal sent a message to Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic expressing his shock and indignation over the assassination of Hakija Turajlic, deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Ozal conveyed his condolences to Izetbegovic and to Turajlic's family.

"In the message, Ozal stressed that the murder is a new manifestation of the extent of the Serbs' exploitation of mediation efforts. He remarked that the incident constitutes another of the shocking consequences of the double standards applied by the West."]

Plane Reportedly Carrying Turks Turned Back

LD0801212093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2045 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, January 8 (TANJUG)—An airplane from Turkey, carrying 60 young men ready to join the fighting in Bosnia on the side of the Bosnian Moslems, landed on Friday [8 January] at Sarajevo airport but was immediately returned to Turkey, Bosnian Serbs' news agency SRNA reported invoking Serb military sources.

At an energetic intervention of the command of the Sarajevo-Romania Corps of the Bosnia Serb Army, the airplane with the combatants from Turkey intended for the Moslem army was returned to Turkey, said SRNA without giving other details.

A no-fly zone has been imposed by the United Nations over Bosnia-Hercegovina, and only U.N. planes for bringing in humanitarian aid were allowed.

Some international circles were exerting pressure towards adoption of a new U.N. resolution permitting the use of force to protect the no-fly zone over Bosnia. This would enable downing of Bosnian Serb airplanes although they were not flying in the Bosnia air space as had been established by the U.N. reports.

Croat Official Reportedly Murdered by Army

LD0801174793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Zeljko Ruzicic from Sarajevo]

[Text] This afternoon the command of the Sarajevo military police issued an official statement saying that a senior state official, Josip Gogala, of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Government and a prominent activist of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Croat Democratic Union [HDZ], was brutally murdered. His body was discovered in Sarajevo and the military police uncovered reliable evidence on the basis of which a number of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Army's 6th Brdska Brigade soldiers were arrested under suspicion of being responsible for this crime. The murder of Josip Gogala followed his arrest and interrogation in the command of the military police on 31 December 1992 after which nothing was heard about him.

In this connection, Miro Lasic, Croat member of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, issued a public statement in which he said that Sarajevo Croats feel personally threatened because of violent behavior of groups protected by the military authorities. Miro Lasic said that Croat apartments in Sarajevo are constantly being raided, that Croats are being thrown out of their homes, and that their property is being ruthlessly and insolently looted. Lasic is demanding the urgent establishment of a military court which will punish those responsible for crime in Sarajevo. Failing that, Lasic's statement says, Croats will organize their own self-protection. Lasic also warns that especially in Sarajevo, Muslim Croats [as heard] are under pressure. These events have caused bitterness in Sarajevo and Bosnia-Herecegovina, in particular among Bosnian Croats.

Izetbegovic Pessimistic About Geneva Talks

AU1101100893 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 7 Jan 93 p 10

[Interview with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic by Andreas Zumach in Geneva on 5 January: "The War Will Continue"]

[Text] [Zumach] A few minutes ago you had a telephone conversation with Chancellor Kohl and on Wednesday [6 January] you will go to the United States for talks—instead of Sarajevo for consultations. What do you expect from the western states as president of Bosnia-Hercegovina and, at the same time, as representative of the Muslims?

[Izetbegovic] In my telephone conversation with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, I explained our position during the Geneva negotiations and our assessment of the failure of the latest round. Public opinion in the western countries—above all in the United States and France—has changed. Only public opinion in Great Britain is not yet satisfactory for us, while Germany has always had very clear positions and assessments regarding our situation. Now and in the future, we expect different reactions by the western states to our demands. Unfortunately, this is too late for many people who have been killed or driven away from their homes.

[Zumach] But can you also expect specific deeds instead of just good works and verbal support? Has Kohl, for instance, given you concrete promises?

[Izetbegovic] When I demanded that the Serbs must be urged to agree to the withdrawal and control of their heavy artillery by the UNPROFOR (UN Protection Force), Kohl said that this is a legitimate and sensible demand. He will support it. Yes, we expect specific deeds by the west.

[Zumach] What kind of deeds?

[Izetbegovic] Limited military actions. By that I mean exclusively air raids. Air raids against combat planes of the Serbs that are carrying out operations, against their military airports, both in Bosnia-Hercegovina and in Serbia, and against positions of their heavy artillery, with which they are attacking civilian targets. The Serbs refuse to agree to the three-part agreement that has been presented in Geneva, according to which all three sides withdraw their artillery and subordinate them to the control of the UNPROFOR in collection points outside the range of potential targets of the opponent. If the Serbs continue to reject that, this artillery must be eliminated by military measures.

[Zumach] Is it not at least necessary to implement more intensive military safeguarding and accompanying measures to ensure relief and supply corridors so that over the next few weeks and months tens of thousands, perhaps even hundreds of thousands of people, will not freeze to death, starve, or die because of fighting?

[Izetbegovic] Yes, absolutely. At the CSCE summit in Helsinki at the beginning of July, U.S. President Bush already made a very specific promise in this respect. He said at that time that the relief corridors "must be enforced and safeguarded under any circumstances, no matter what kind of means are necessary for that purpose." If I meet President Bush during my stay in the United States, I will remind him of this promise.

[Zumach] Whom will you meet in the United States?

[Izetbegovic] Certainly members of the Bush administration and of the future Clinton administration; in New York perhaps also representatives of member states of the UN Security Council.

[Zumach] The map with 10 provinces that was presented by conference chairmen Vance and Owen at the beginning of the last round of negotiations in Geneva was at first categorically rejected by your delegation for reasons of principle. In a written statement from your delegation it was said that the approach chosen by Vance and Owen with this map also is the "basis for the current Serbian aggression and ethnic cleansing" and will "not stop the war but make it escalate anew." Implementing this approach would mean the "constitutional setting down of the ethnic division of Bosnia-Hercegovina." On Sunday [3 January] you accepted this map at least as a "basis for negotiations, which needs a lot of corrections." Why?

[Izetbegovic] We wanted very much to save this conference in any case. Therefore, we accepted this map as a basis for negotiations, but we demand—in vain so far—changes of the borders suggested by Vance and Owen in five places. We want to avoid being blamed for the failure of this conference. We are under pressure from the international community, EC, and United Nations, to come to an agreement, of which we are not convinced that it is good for us. In this respect we are in approximately the same situation as Czechoslovakia before World War II. However, the strongest pressure that is exerted on our delegation to the negotiations, is the very, very difficult situation of our people. Our people expect exactly the opposite of what the international community urges us to do. However, the decisive thing is the serious suffering of our people at the moment. It is not our generation that now has to solve all problems. Some things we must leave to the next generation; above all, we must preserve Bosnia-Hercegovina as a unified state now.

[Zumach] Does such a unified state, which is divided into more or less ethnically defined provinces, have any chance of survival in the medium term?

[Izetbegovic] As soon as we have peace, the ethnic and national aspects will play a lesser role again. On all sides, sober economic interests will again determine thinking and acting—and this is a strong force. The transfer of goods and other economic relationships will lead to overcoming these provincial borders. These internal borders would then not be as important as today.

[Zumach] At your press conference in Geneva on Monday, you said that recognition of the unified state by Serbia, as well as the withdrawal and control of all heavy weapons, are absolutely necessary preconditions for your signing the three-part agreement, which was presented by Vance and Owen on Monday evening. Are the five changes in the map presented by Vance and Owen, which you have demanded—to which the Serbs and Croats would have to agree—also a precondition for your signing the agreement?

[Izetbegovic] Yes, certainly. We insist on all these five changes. Let us take, for instance, our demands to shift the border suggested by Vance and Owen between the future Muslim province of Bihac and the Serb province of Banja Luka to the east and to the south because the areas that are affected and were once inhabited by Muslims have been ethnically cleansed by the Serbs. If the border suggested by Vance and Owen were accepted, those driven away could not return to their homes. This means that "ethnic cleansing" would be officially accepted.

[Zumach] How do you see the future of the armed forces?

[Izetbegovic] For a certain—but not too long—period they can be stationed in the respective provinces. The final aim must be the gradual complete demilitarization of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

[Zumach] After your return from the United States on Sunday, you want to participate in the Geneva negotiations for only a few hours and then fly to the Islamic Conference, which will begin in Dakkar on Monday. Why?

[Izetebegovic] I will ask, above all, for political but also for material support, for support of the demand for the withdrawal and control of the heavy weapons as well as for approval of military measures, if this demand is not fulfilled by the Serbs. We expect the Islamic states to financially support military measures by the international community. Finally, I will ask the Islamic Conference again to advocate the lifting of the arms embargo against us at the UN Security Council.

[Zumach] In Belgrade, Vance and Owen are currently trying to exert pressure on Karadzic via President Milosevic so that Karadzic will change his attitude at the next Geneva negotiations on Sunday. Do you still see any chance to come to an agreement in these negotiations?

[Izetbegovic] No, I do not expect that anymore. Since he rejected the entire agreement on Monday, Karadzic is seen by the international community as the one who refuses to come to an agreement. If he gave up his demand for a Serbian state, he would be the loser in his own people's eyes. I think the war will continue for a long time, and the Serbian side is to blame for that.

Izetbegovic Interviewed on U.S. Visit

NC0801204693 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1730 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Interview with President Alija Izetbegovic by Ayda Yavuz in Washington; date not given—recorded; Izetbegovic speaks in English with superimposed Turkish translation]

[Text] [Yavuz] What has your visit to the United States achieved so far? Have you obtained support from the Western powers, primarily the United States?

[Izetbegovic] We have many friends. More correctly, a general understanding prevails regarding our problem. The American people in particular understand us. For this reason, taking advantage of the recess announced at the Geneva conference, I came here for a four-day visit. I am trying to explain the Bosnia-Hercegovina situation and the developments at the Geneva conference to the American people and the press. I came here because differences of opinion exist with the Serbs at the Geneva conference and because I believe that we have secured the support of the American people.

[Yavuz] According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, Cyrus Vance [cochairman of the Geneva Conference on Yugoslavia] is trying to prevent you from meeting President Bush. What do you think of this?

[Izetbegovic] I did not come here to meet President Bush or officials from the new administration. I came here at the invitation of the Carnegie Endowment. My aim is to enlighten the American press and people about the situation in Bosnia. Therefore, I had no intention or plan to contact President Bush. I would be pleased to meet President Bush or other officials of the administration, but I am not sure that Cyrus Vance is preventing the meeting. Not everything written is always correct. I did have a meeting with Secretary of State Eagleburger.

[Yavuz] Did you contact the Clinton team? Do you think that they are more positively disposed toward intervention?

[Izetbegovic] So far there has been no contact. Ten days ago I spoke with Al Gore. He asked me about the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Our conversation took place before the Geneva conference. He wanted to know what views we would present at the conference. I tried to explain our views to him and explained our stance at these negotiations.

[Yavuz] Do you have any message for Turkey? Are you pleased with the policy Turkey has pursued so far?

[Izetbegovic] Availing myself of this opportunity I want to greet the sublime and noble Turkish people. We have many friends in the world, but here there is a Turkish people and a Turkish Government which from the very start supported our struggle for independence. Again taking this opportunity, I convey my greetings and I thank them.

[Yavuz] What is your view on the new peace plan submitted by Vance and Owen at the latest Geneva conference?

[Izetbegovic] Vance and Owen submitted two texts and one map. We did not like certain elements, but the proposals are at an acceptable level. We accepted these proposals to bring peace to the region. We cannot accept the map, however. It includes future-oriented constitutional arrangements. One of the reasons for our rejection is that it divides up Bosnia-Hercegovina into ten provinces. That is, according to this map, Bosnia-Hercegovina was going to be divided into ten autonomous regions. Such a thing might be accepted as a basis but problems would arise regarding the areas included in these provinces, because according to this map, many of Bosnia-Hercegovina's areas, where the Serbs still conduct a policy of ethnic cleansing against the minorities, remain under Serbian control. This is unjust. We say this is not only an injustice, it is also a fact that our people who were forced to leave these areas cannot return there because these areas are under Serbian control. There are five such areas. There are also two cities where many people have been killed. One is in the west and the other is in the north of Bosnia. According to official accounts, between 5,000 to 7,000 women and children were killed in these two cities. Even these cities are being placed under Serbian control. This was unacceptable to us and we rejected it. Even if the plan is adopted at the Geneva conference I do not think that (?it will work). But, we all must be patient and we all must do everything possible. Even if an agreement is signed one day the problem will remain as to how to implement it. Mr. Vance, in his capacity as the representative of the international community—that is, of the United Nations—and Lord Owen, as the representative of the European Community, guaranteed us that this agreement would be implemented.

Let me also talk about the situation in Bosnia. According to our own assessment, the military situation is not very bad. We managed to halt the aggression. The Serbian aggressors are unable to advance further. We too are unable to advance. From the humanitarian viewpoint, however, the problem is extremely acute, especially in the eastern Bosnia. This area is cut off from Sarajevo and other areas. The roads are cut off and assistance is not reaching the people there. And according to my information, many people are dying from hunger and cold there every day. The situation there is very bad. The Serbs are sexually assaulting our women. Unfortunately, this is the worst crime during the war. According to our information, this is being done in a premeditated manner. This is the most monstrous weapon used against our people. We will never forgive such a crime.

Izetbegovic Visit 'Uncomfortable' for U.S.

LD0801185093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1733 GMT 8 Jan 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Washington, January 8 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic was supposed to meet on Friday [8 January] with U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and possibly with presidential advisor for national security issues Brent Scowcroft.

Izetbegovic's arrival in Washington has put the U.S. Administration in an uncomfortable position, in spite of the U.S. support of the Moslem side in Bosnia.

Izetbegovic arrived in the United States seeking a military intervention, the urgent introduction of force in the no-fly zone above Bosnia, a demand that military targets in Serbia be attacked, and finally to see if the arms embargo in Bosnia-Hercegovina could be lifted. Izetbegovic is demanding all this in the break between two rounds of the peace talks in Geneva, which are assessed here as a watershed between peace and the continuation of an even fiercer war.

Izetbegovic came to Washington to seek help, but neither the old nor the new administration know what to do with him, said THE NEW YORK TIMES on Friday.

Cyrus Vance, co-chairman of the Geneva conference on the former Yugoslavia asked Eagleburger on Wednesday not to meet with Izetbegovic and to prevent any top-level meetings, out of fear that such treatment in the U.S might encourage Izetbegovic to undermine the Geneva negotiations and pin all his hopes on a military intervention.

Eagleburger promised Vance that he would comply, but when THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote about this on Thursday, Eagleburger allegedly angered by the indiscretion, decided to meet with Izetbegovic. At the same time, the delegation from Sarajevo said that it could count on a meeting with Snowcroft in the White House.

Clinton's headquarters have decided that apart from support for the "Moslem side," posing in front of photographers and the undertaking of any obligations towards Izetbegovic before Clinton enters the White House on January 20, would be unsuitable.

It has been learned that Izetbegovic was offered a meeting with two lower officials from Clinton's headquarters.

Izetbegovic May Request U.S. Air Strike

NC0901190793 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Interview with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic by 'Aziz Fahmi; date and place not given—recorded; questions and answers in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] [Izetbegovic] I do not believe that the ban on the flights of Serbian warplanes is enough. I call on the United States to ensure the collection of Serbian heavy

weapons and to place them under United Nations supervision in accordance with the Geneva conference discussion. If the Serbs refuse or do not honor this, I will be forced to ask the United States to carry out air strikes against the positions where these weapons are held to destroy them.

[Fahmi] Mr. President, what do you want the Islamic world to do?

[Izetbegovic] I will ask the Islamic world to support our political demands and help us militarily should the Geneva talks fail. I would also like the Islamic world to help us lift the ban on the sale of heavy weapons to us so that we can defend ourselves. We also expect economic and humanitarian aid.

[Fahmi] Do you expect the administration of the U.S. President-Elect to lift the ban on the sale of weapons to Bosnia so that you can defend yourselves?

[Izetbegovic] Clinton has not promised military intervention or to lift the ban on the sale of heavy weapons, but during his election campaign he promised to follow a certain political line in handling the problem of Bosnia-Hercegovina. We hope he will fulfill his promise.

Silajdzic on Geneva Talks, Arms Embargo

NC1001084093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Bosnia-Hercegovina Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic has said that he is pessimistic about what the Geneva conference on peace in Bosnia can achieve, adding that the Serbian aggressors' insistence on establishing a Serbian state on Bosnian territory does not give cause for optimism in the negotiations scheduled to be resumed in Geneva.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, Silajdzic said that his country's delegation to the Geneva conference demanded that the UN resolutions be respected and implemented, especially the clauses on placing heavy weapons under UN control, but the two international mediators and the Serbian aggressors rejected the demand. He added: conference cochairmen Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen presented a working map which partitions Bosnia into 10 provinces. This map was drawn up on the basis of ethnic considerations, not according to historical, geographic, or economic ones as they persistently claim. He went on to say: The issue was not limited to adhering to these ethnic considerations, but went so far as to give legitimacy to ethnic cleansing, which the Serbs have implemented by armed force in the areas they have occupied and during which they have carried out genocide operations against thousands of Muslim men and women, displaced more than a million people, and brutally raped around 50,000 Muslim women and girls.

The Bosnian foreign minister told AL-AHRAM: We agreed to participate in the Geneva conference to avoid doubts that we are not interested in a peaceful and fair solution. But the Serbian aggressors' delegation refused to recognize the independent and sovereign state of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The map presented by the two international mediators also excluded historical, geographic, and economic considerations, thus ignoring the fact that the state of Bosnia-Hercegovina is one of the oldest in Europe and has had borders for many centuries which should not be changed "from the above", specifically in favor of the aggressor.

Silajdzic stressed that the issue concerns a Serbian expansion attempt which was prepared long ago and is supported by the communist-fascist government in Belgrade to create greater Serbia in place of the collapsed Yugoslavia. To achieve this mad objective, the Serbian aggressors care about nothing but removing any obstacle to achieving it, particularly the Muslims, and therefore are waging this dirty ethnic war.

He added that his country's demands can be summarized as follows: military intervention by the United Nations, NATO, or any other party to stop the bloodshed, establish peace, and start healing the war wounds. He said: If this is not done for any reason whatsoever, then the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia should be lifted. He stressed that the Bosnians are capable of triumphing over the Serbian aggressors without help from any foreign forces if they can just obtain arms from whichever side.

Assembly Head Says Unitary State Not Negotiable

LD1001135193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1110 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Jan (TANJUG)—Miro Lazovic, recently appointed president of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Assembly, said this morning in Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina's "Microphone on Duty" program that the Muslim delegation in Geneva will not continue holding talks until "the side of the occupier openly says whether they accept Bosnia-Hercegovina as an internationally recognized, sovereign, and independent state," reports SRNA.

"There is no compromising," Lazovic went on to say, "the basic principles we established, which is that we will try to preserve Bosnia-Hercegovina as a unitary and democratic state. The proposed map does not really suit us because it was drawn on ethnic principles."

In Lazovic's opinion, "unless a solution is found and if the situation worsens so that the Geneva talks are suspended," political action will be transferred to the UN Security Council, where the final solution regarding the implementation of UN resolutions will have to be achieved through certain military pressures and actions, SRNA quotes Lazovic as saying.

Serb Parliament Sets 'Minimum' Conditions

AU0901202793 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Report by Milovan Gacina from Bijeljina]

[Text] After almost 12 hours of discussion, the people's assembly of the Serbian Republic [of Bosnia-Hercegovina] ended its work in Bijeljina early this morning. The 24th session, which, judging by the conclusions and stands that will be presented in Geneva tomorrow has every chance of attaining the epithet of historical, discussed the results and documents of peace talks in Geneva.

In his introductory speech, Radovan Karadzic briefed the deputies in detail on the maps that have been offered, warning them that they are making a decision at a historic moment.

[Begin recording] One signature could change the fate of the entire Serbian people. If we accept not to be part of the united Serbian nation, we will harm the entire Serbian people and bring into question our existence and survival in this region. On the other hand, if we are blamed for the failure of the Geneva conference, then the powers that have an interest in using force in international relations will have a pretext and justification for a possible attack on us. We will accept any decision by the assembly.

I was asked the question of why we have been asked to sign something when this could be imposed on us. If this is imposed on us, we retain the moral right to destroy it as long as we are alive, and to destroy it as Croats were destroying Yugoslavia from the very first day of its existence until they destroyed it completely. If we sign it, we do not have the moral right to destroy it. [end recording]

After the speeches by Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, more than 40 deputies stressed that the Serbian people must not accept solutions that would reduce them to a minority in Bosnia-Hercegovina, nor the solutions according to which the Serbian land would be sold. Although the conclusions will be presented in Geneva tomorrow, it is clear from what was stated at the assembly session that they will say that the minimum of the Serbian honor is a state that would encompass all Serbian ethnic territories in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Only when this fact is acknowledged will the Serbian people be ready to make compromises for peace to be established and just solutions found.

Karadzic, Mladic on Meeting

AU0801200093 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Interview with Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serbian republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and General Ratko Mladic, commander of the army of the Serbian republic, by Vlado Trisic in Bijeljina on 8 January—recorded]

[Text] [Trisic] Esteemed viewers, the assembly of the Serbian republic [of Bosnia-Hercegovina] started its session today at 1600 here in Bijeljina. Most of us know the reasons: the Geneva conference and negotiations. Mr. Karadzic, can you tell Television Belgrade about the assembly starting at 1600 here in Bijeljina? Can you tell us what you expect from it? Some say that it will be historic.

[Karadzic] Well, you see, everything that has been happening is of vast importance, vital importance not only for the Serbs in the Serbian republic, but also for Serbs in the republic of Serbian Krajina and Yugoslavia—that is, for the Serbian people in general. We were formed as a nation even before we entered Yugoslavia and, after all, when we entered Yugoslavia as a common state we were formed as a nation. Now the European logic expects us to belong to some other nation—that is, to Bosnia as a nation-state—and we have to see what our people think—that is, the leadership absolutely cannot make the decision. We have to ask the deputies. I do not know if the deputies will ask for some time to consider it, but basically we have to share the responsibility with the people's deputies.

[Trisic] Tell us, will the assembly have to accept Vance's [cochairman of the Conference on Yugoslavia] proposals or will they be considered?

[Karadzic] The assembly does not have to accept anything. The assembly is a body that does not have to do anything. Of course, we have to take all the risks and dangers into account and share all the risks, but no one can impose anything on the assembly. We will see what the assembly will decide. I cannot guess what it will accept and what it will not, but if it is told that it must accept something, well, that is the one thing you do not say to a Serbian assembly.

[Trisic] General Mladic, how do you see the current situation in the former Bosnia-Hercegovina?

[Mladic] Despite the fact that the cochairmen Vance and Owen asked all the sides to abstain from offensive actions, that unfortunately has not been observed by the Muslims. On our Orthodox holiday, they attacked several villages near Bratunac and Srebrenica. Unfortunately, we suffered some losses there, which speaks for the fact that they are still trying to solve everything by force, regardless of the attempts by the international community and our good will to solve the problem in a peaceful way.

[Trisic] There was fighting near Bratunac and Mount Majevica yesterday and today. How do you see the situation in northeastern Bosnia, where things have really been critical recently?

[Mladic] The situation is rather complex, however, it is not critical. We can respond to all their attacks. We do not want to wage war, but if they attack, we will naturally defend ourselves.

[Trisic] Judging by the number of foreign correspondents, particularly TV agencies ABC, (?Vis News), and Swiss television and many others, this session can justly be called historic. Since it has been held behind closed doors from the very start, we have not been able to find out more. However, we have learned about the agenda. As we have found out from the documents connected with the assembly's work, the agenda consists of four points. The first one is on adopting the minutes from the 23d session of the People's Assembly of the Serbian republic; the second one concerns the report from Geneva and the proposed draft on the constitutional organization of the former Bosnia-Hercegovina; the third point on the agenda concerns the proposed amendments to the law on the tax on income, and the forth point concerns the demand by the EC mission observers to be allowed again to be present on the territory of the Serbian republic.

As I have already said, the session is still in progress and it is expected to continue overnight.

Serb Republic Deputies Issue Statement on Talks

LD0901025793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0025 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Bijeljina, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—The deputies of the People's Assembly of the Serb Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina concluded tonight that "the Geneva conference" should be continued until a solution is found, respecting the standpoints reached so far.

A public statement from the 24th session of the assembly in Bijeljina adds that the opinion of the deputies of the Serb Republic People's Assembly is that "the maps and the constitutional principles offered" represent initial material to be worked on."

"The assembly will not allow the separation of the Serb nation into a number of provinces without any geographical continuity and it will not accept the Serb nation becoming a part of some new nation. Taking realities into account, however, the Serb nation is ready for compromises in order for peace to be restored and for a just solution to be found," the statement says.

"Commenting on the maps, the deputies resolutely voiced their stand that the Serb nation has not given up its right, as a constituent nation, to form their own constituent state unit which can consist of provinces. Special stress was also put on the viewpoint that the Serb nation in the territory of the former Bosnia-Hercegovina continues to be an inseparable and indivisible part of the Serbian nation.

Granting its delegation the mandate to continue the work at the Geneva negotiations to contribute to the success of the conference, the deputies stress that the Serb nation has not given up its stance to preserve its state-building character, its nationality, and its state personality.

If the cooperativeness of the Serb side is not recognized, the deputies stress that the alternative is full independence or the unification of the Serb nation with neighboring states, about which the Serb nation will decide at a referendum," the public statement signed by People's Assembly President Momcilo Krajisnik says.

The statement was made public late this evening after speeches by the president of the Serb Republic, Radovan Karadzic, and General Ratko Mladic on the first round of the Geneva conference and the deputies' discussion.

Serbs Reject French Plans To Liberate Camps

AU1101104493 Paris AFP in English 1014 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Geneva, Jan 11 (AFP)—Bosnian Serbs on Monday [11 January] branded French plans to liberate detention camps in Bosnia-Herecegovina by force a domestic political ploy and said France's troops would face a tough battle.

"It is absurd to think that the French Army can intervene and impose itself," said Misa Milosevic, a spokesman for the Bosnian Serbs. Asked if the Serbs would fight back, he said, "evidently."

Milosevic said the remarks by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas on Sunday night "reek of domestic French political problems and have nothing to do with the peace process."

But another delegation official said Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic had sent a letter to French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas offering to liberate all Croat and Moslems prisoners if all the Serb detainees were freed.

In a broadcast interview Dumas demanded that the detention camps, the scene of alleged murders and rapes, be closed down by force. He said France was prepared to act alone if necessary.

A spokesman for the Geneva conference on Bosnia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross all declined to comment on Dumas' remarks.

UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond said some 1,860 mostly Moslem and Croat prisoners remained in detention camps.

He added that 2,269 had been relocated abroad and that 2,470 were in transit facilities. But U.S. reports suggested that some 70,000 prisoners were still being held in secret camps.

The official with the Bosnian Serb delegation said Karadzic had sent Dumas a list of 1,100 Serbian prisoners still held, including women allegedly raped, with another 6,200 names to follow.

A spokesman for the Bosnian Government delegation said a list would be given to the ICRC of 400 prisoners held by Bosnian forces.

He said they were prepared to release all, except for those accused of war crimes.

British Troops Come Under Renewed Shelling

LD0901104093 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1025 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Report by PRESS ASSOCIATION defense correspondent Charles Miller]

[Text] British troops in the Bosnian garrison town of Tomislavgrad came under renewed artillery bombardment during the night, defence officials said today. A barrage of 17 artillery rounds fell on the town—home to the British Army's main engineering base in central Bosnia. The 500 troops at the base dived for cover in pre-prepared bunkers and no one was injured.

This latest incident followed a barrage of 114 artillery shells on the town yesterday which destroyed the main engineering workshop, three Land Rovers and an eight-ton truck. Both attacks are believed to have been carried out by Serb artillery in the surrounding mountains. And the United Nations military headquarters in Sarajevo has lodged a strong complaint with the Serbs.

The bombardments are certain to strengthen the military's bid to accelerate Ministry of Defence contingency plans to deploy light 105mm artillery guns and other reinforcements to Bosnia. Aircraft carrier Ark Royal is already on alert in Portsmouth and preparing to sail for the Adriatic if the order is given.

Tomislavgrad is the key link in the British supply chain from the Croatian port of Split through to the UK forward operating base at Vitez. And the British base has a range of specialist engineering equipment, mechanics, sappers and other specialists to keep the route open. However, the 2,400-strong British force in former Yugoslavia lacks artillery.

The contingency plans have been drawn up ostensibly in anticipation of Serb retaliation if the UN votes to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia. But the attacks on Tomislavgrad combined with unexpected attacks on the nearby towns of Prozor and Bugojno yesterday could persuade the MoD to move more quickly. The contingency plans have been designed to cover two primary options—to help evacuate the Cheshire Regiment battle group, or to provide sufficient reinforcements for the humanitarian aid operation to continue.

British military officials in Bosnia today said there were no plans to withdraw from Tomislavgrad and they were looking at ways to boost security at the base.

British Troops Return Fire

LD1001193993 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1854 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by Charles Miller, PRESS ASSOCIATION defence correspondent]

[Text] British troops in Bosnia tonight used cannon fire for the first time to hit back when attacked by Serb mortars and machine guns.

A troop from the 9/12 Royal Lancers in Scimitar light tanks was escorting a Danish convoy between Tuzla and Kradanj when the fire fight broke out. As the convoy approached Kradanj, mortars and small arms were fired from Serb positions in an area where British troops have often come under attack. The Lancers opened up with their powerful 30mm Rarden cannons, firing 17 rounds towards the Serb positions. More than 100 rounds were also fired from their general purpose machine guns. "They responded robustly after quite a lot of provocation," the Ministry of Defence said.

It was the third time British troops have fired back after coming under attack but the first with cannons. The convoy suffered no casualties or damage, and did not wait around to discover whether it had inflicted any casualties on the Serbs.

Exasperation with local Serb forces has grown after weeks of painstaking negotiations to gain a safe passage through the area. The Serbs complained they could not recognise British vehicles, although they are painted white and sport the United Nations flag. British commanders therefore fitted flashing lights so the vehicles would be unmistakeable. But still they came under fire and the lights were quickly removed. "There is a general feeling of exasperation with the local Serb forces," said a defence source.

Under the UN mandate, the 2,400-strong British force has the right to use its cannons and 81mm mortars to return fire if attacked. However, all UN forces in the region have kept defensive fire to a minimum so that situations can be defused. Some 500 British troops at the logistics base in Tomislavgrad twice came under intensive artillery barrages on Friday.

The government is expected to decide soon about sending reinforcements to boost the British forces' firepower and air transport.

Heavy 155mm artillery batteries based in Germany have been placed on alert, together with the aircraft carrier Ark Royal, with its Sea Harrier jump jets and Sea King helicopters.

Karadzic Cites Ties Between Serb Republic, Serbia

LD0801134393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1224 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 8 (TANJUG)—Radovan Karadzic, leader of Serbs in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, has said that "fundamentally, there is not a single misunderstanding between the Serb Republic and the Republic of Serbia, or between the Serb Republic and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia."

Karadzic pointed out in an interview to the Belgrade weekly NIN that the Bosnian Serbs have the "support of Serbia and the F.R. [Federal Republic] of Yugoslavia in their just demands for peace and for the right to self-determination, of rather the right to consensually influence the common documents and not to have solutions imposed on them."

The Bosnian Serbs have proclaimed their Serb Republic in opposition to the secessionist policy of the Moslem-Croat coalition in the leadership of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Karadzic went on to describe as "unacceptable" the map of Bosnia- Hercegovina presented by co-chairmen of the conference on Yugoslavia Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen at the Geneva meeting on Saturday [2 January].

This map "is not simply to the detriment of the Serb people, but to their detriment compared to the situation from before the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina," he said.

Karadzic expressed doubts about Lord Owen's alleged statement "that the Bosnian Serbs have to accept Bosnia-Hercegovina as an independent state and should cherish no illusions about joining Serbia."

"Had Lord Owen said that, it would have been a sheer imposition of a solution," said Karadzic and stressed that the "Serbs do not accept any imposed solution."

The conference on resolving the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina, whose second round opens in Geneva on Sunday [10 January], "will only have chances of success if all three parties to the conflict—Moslem, Serb and Croat—are treated equally and if the right to self-determination is recognized to all peoples," said Karadzic.

"If the conference fails, the Serbs will be blamed as usually, although they are not the culprits," he warned.

Croatian Militias Barring Supplies Near Sarajevo

AU0801211393 Paris AFP in English 2058 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Kiseljak, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Jan 8 (AFP)—Croatian forces in Bosnia-Hercegovina near Sarajevo have received orders to bar all shipments to the besieged Serbian capital Sarajevo, one of their commanders said Friday [8 January].

Foreign correspondents traveling in a convoy from Kiseljak were ordered to hand over food, fuel containers and cigarettes which they had bought in the town 35 kilometers (20 miles) northwest of Sarajevo when they were checked at a Croatian roadblock.

Kiseljack is the only place near Sarajevo where these items can be bought outside the black market.

"We have been given orders to seize all merchandise destined for Sarajevo," a young commander of the checkpoint said, showing a written order by Colonel Tihomil Blaskic, one of the Croatian commanders in central Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The convoy and all supplies were allowed to procede after a lengthy discussion but a Croatian official warned that the next time "all items that are not for strictly professional use will be confiscated."

The measure does not seem to apply to international aid convoys.

In Kiseljak where the tactical headquarters of the United Nation Protection Force is located a U.N.-organized swap of prisoners was called off without explanation Friday.

Plans for an exchange Tuesday had also failed.

Cease-Fire Violations Reported in Hercegovina

LD0901120793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1131 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Bileca, January 9 (TANJUG)—Troops of the regular Croatian Army and Bosnia-Hercegovina's Croat-Muslim coalition again violated the ceasefire in the region of Hercegovina on Friday night [8 January] and in the early hours on Saturday, the command of the Bosnian Serb Army in eastern Hercegovina said on Saturday.

On the part of the battlefront near Trebinje, the administrative centre of that mostly Serb-populated region, Croat forces opened small arms and sniper fire on Serb positions in villages on the fringes of Popovo Polje, a fertile valley near Trebinje, said the Serb Army command in Bileca.

The Croatian Army, which has more than 60,000 troops in Bosnia-Hercegovina, has already occupied one third of the Trebinje municipality.

Serb positions between Capljina and Stolac also came under fire from heavy weapons during the night, said Serb Army soures.

On Friday, fire was set on the remaining Serb houses on that part of the battlefront occupied by Croat and Muslim forces.

The Hercegovina Corps on Friday opened fire only in the northern part of the battlefront to beat off an attack by smaller Muslim infantry groups, said the Serb Army.

Muslim forces in the region of Konjic, Mt. Igman, Trnovo and Gorazde between southeastern Bosnia and northeastern Hercegovina are continuing preparations for an offensive in the direction of Borci, Kalinovic, Miljevina, Ustikolina and Foca, said the sources in the Hercegovina Corps Command.

Serb 'Messerschmitt' Plane Bombs Srebrenica

LD1001200493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpt] At exactly 1515 a single Messerschmitt [as heard] belonging to the Serb-chetnik air force flew in from the direction of Valjevo and dropped its lethal load on the freedom-loving and already devastated town of Srebrenica. Material damage is enormous. Three persons were killed and 12 were wounded. [passage omitted]

TANJUG Reports Renewed Fighting

LD1101093693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0910 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Zvornik, January 11 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Serb forces neutralized a Moslem sabotage-terrorist group discovered on Sunday [10 January] morning in the broader region of Crni Vrh (eastern Bosnia), said Bosnian Serb military sources in Zvornik (eastern Bosnia) late on Sunday. A group consisting of 40 Moslem sabotage specialists tried to cut off important road communications from Zvornik to Pale, the political and military seat of the Bosnian Serbs' leadership near Sarajevo.

There were larger clashes in Bosnia-Hercegovina between Moslem-Croatian and Bosnian Serb forces on Sunday around the towns of Bihac (western Bosnia) and Teslic (central Bosnia). Serbian and Moslem sources gave contradictory accounts of events in Sarajevo.

Moslem forces opened heavy artillery-infantry fire from the hill Zuc (near Sarajevo) on Bosnian Serb positions before Sarajevo's suburb of Vosgosca, said the Bosnian Serbs news agency SRNA.

Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina which is controlled by the Moslem authorities, reported on Sunday that Bosnian Serbs had not undertaken "any special activities" in Sarajevo.

Moslem attacks continued in the Bihac battlefield, said TANJUG correspondent. Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina said that members of the 101 Croatian Brigade have moved the frontline towards Serbian positions.

Croatian-Moslem forces opened artillery fire on Teslic and the town suffered great destruction, said TANJUG correspondent. A Croatian-Moslem infantry attack on Teslic was repelled.

Croatian forces opened artillery fire from Orasje on Bosnian Serb positions in the corridor linking Bosnian Krajina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on Sunday.

Moslems continued attacks from Srebrenica (eastern Bosnia) against the defence line of the neighbouring Serbian community of Bratunac, said TANJUG correspondent. The frontline has not been moved, said Serbian military sources.

There were provocations by Croatian forces from infantry and artillery weapons on Sunday in the Hercegovina battlefield, said SRNA.

Muslims Killed in Overnight Fighting Near Bihac

LD1101093393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0856 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Bihac, 11 Jan (TANJUG)—Overnight, according to Serb military sources, Muslim-Croat forces on the Bihac battlefield constantly attacked positions of the Serb Republic's army along the entire demarcation line. The provocations are continuing this morning.

According to these sources, the fiercest clashes took place in the Grabez and Golubic areas. One Serb soldier, Stevo Broceta, was killed and four Serb soldiers were lightly wounded. More than 50 Muslim soldiers were killed and the soldiers of Second Krajina Corps [Serb forces] seized a large quantity of weapons and ammunition.

Zagreb Radio Reports Serbs Using Poison Gas

LD1001194493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Attacks by the Serb aggressors in the Bosnia-Hercegovina theater continued today but the defenders have remained in control of all defense lines and have launched occasional counterattacks and subversive actions [as heard].

In their artillery and tank and infantry attacks today on the Brcko defense lines, Serb units used poison gas, poisoning three defenders. An attack with howitzers on the defense positions at Dizdarusa and Omerbegovaca was accompanied by heavy fire from sniper and infantry weapons. Lipovac, Brod, and Brodusa were attacked with tanks, mortars, and machineguns with simultaneous fire from anti-aircraft machineguns and infantry weapons.

After Gradacac defenders repelled attacks on the defense positions in Pozarike, Vida, and Novalici, the enemy responded by attacking Liporasce, Huskici, and Unkici.

On person was killed in Serb artillery attacks on Tuzla from positions on Mount Majevica.

From the direction of Donji Vakuf and Kupres, Serb artillery attacked Prusac and Bugojno. Three people were killed and several injured. Dozens of shells which hit the area caused considerable damage.

Soldier Wounded in Attack on Canadian Soldiers

LD0901125293 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Early this morning in the village of Japaga in the occupied part of the Pakrac municipality, chetniks attacked an armored vehicle belonging to members of the Canadian battalion. One Canadian soldier was wounded. The commander of the Canadian battalion has informed the Pakrac police station of the attack. Following the attack on the Canadian armored vehicle, the peacekeeping forces have stepped up their supervision of the area.

U.S. Delegation Arrives for Talks With Tudjman

LD0901175193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has received a U.S. delegation headed by Congressman Charles Wilson. He was accompanied by Roland Neitzke and John Zerolis, the charge d'affaires and the first secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb. As the president's office announced, the topic of the talks was the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia, and the Geneva international peace conference on the former Yugoslavia.

Meets With Defense Minister

LD0901195793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The U.S. delegation headed by Congressman Charles Wilson was received today by Croatian Defense Minister Gojko Susak. In a brief statement for Croatian television and HINA, Congressman Wilson said that he will try to collect as many reports as possible about the situation in Croatia. We believe that Croatia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and the whole region will be a frequent topic of discussion in the U.S. Congress, Wilson said. Better information will improve links between our country and the U.S. Congress, Minister Susak said.

Vice Foreign Minister Seeks More Help in FRG

LD0801182193 Hamburg DPA in German 1503 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—Deputy Croatian Foreign Minister Miomir Zuzul has called for increased humanitarian and financial aid from abroad to cope with the refugee problem in his country. There are now well over 800,000 war refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina in Croatia, the minister told correspondents in Bonn today. That is almost as many people as there are employed persons in Croatia. The refugees have brought the republic, which has been in existence for just over a year, to the brink of economic collapse. Furthermore, Zuzul reiterated the Croatian demand for military intervention by the United Nations in Bosnia to stop the Serb aggressors.

General Claims 'Never Violated' No-Fly Zone

LD1001202093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1918 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Banja Luka, Jan 10 (TANJUG)—Commander of the Bosnian Serb Air-Force Gen. Zivomir Ninkovic on Sunday [10 January] said that Bosnian Serbs have never violated the U.N. resolution on a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Hercegovina, while Croatia's aircraft made as many as 146 flights in the no-fly zone. "I responsibly claim that our Air-Force has not made one single sortie nor any other combat flight since Resolution 781 was signed on October 9," Gen. Ninkovic told the LONDON TIMES and GUARDIAN.

Bosnian Serbs made only a small number of flights and for humanitarian purposes alone, i.e., for saving the wounded, injured and sick troops, Ninkovic said and added that "all of them were regularly reported to U.N. observers" and that they were able to monitor these flights.

Gen. Ninkovic said Croatia's Air-Force had flown 146 sorties over Bosnia from October 11 to January 7 and that they landed at airports in the Cazin Krajina (a Muslim enclave in North-Western Bosnia). A large number of these flights have unfoundedly been ascribed to the Serbian side, Ninkovic said. "What the whole world calls humanitarian flights is a humanitarian need and there is no reason for new resolutions because of this," Gen. Ninkovic said, referring to the West's calls for a resolution allowing the use of force in the no-fly zone.

"I think the U.S. needs to present our flights as sorties just to push through its military intervention, even for bizarre reasons. They are perfectly well-informed of our activities. First, because they boast space technology and modern reconaissance planes enabling them to record all our flights and, second, UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] observers see absolutely everything and report accordingly," Ninkovic said.

The members of the international monitor mission attending the talk said they were regularly registering all take-offs and landings of Serbian helicopters and that the choppers have never been armed. The international monitors also said they have been receiving all protests of the Bosnian Serb Air-Force regarding the flights of Croatia's planes into the Cazin Krajina and that they have been sending them on to their command in Zagreb.

Tension Caused by Serb Krajina Policeman Arrest

LD0801211193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Ana Mudric from Pakrac]

[Text] The situation in Pakrac is tense today after enemy provocations following the arrest of Mladen Babic, a member of the so-called Serb Krajina police, who crossed to the Croat side yesterday. Everything started yesterday when Mladen Babic crossed the demarcation line near Gavrinica and approached Vladicin Dvor [Serb Orthodox Church headquarters] in Pakrac which is in the area controlled by the Croat police. After he was arrested it was established that a wanted circular had already been sent out for Babic. Members of the Canadian battalion demanded Babic's release but this was rejected by the Croatian police and then chetniks deployed their troops in combat positions at the demarcation line. At the same time, about 100 civilians from the enemy side moved toward the checkpoint. The Canadian battalion tried to stop them and a fight broke out between the Canadians, the so-called Krajina police, and the civilians. After they were reinforced, the Canadians were able to control the crowd and then the Serb

side issued an ultimatum warning that they would use force to liberate the prisoner. The Canadians responded to this ultimatum by deploying 26 of their armored personnel carriers in combat positions facing the enemy side. The ultimatum was repeated today accompanied by an offer for an exchange of prisoners from both sides.

Negotiations are in progress but it should be stressed that this incident caused by the Serb side has had no serious consequences so far owing to the remarkable professionalism of the Croatian police which are dealing with the whole case and cooperating with the UN civilian police. This was confirmed by Barry Hogan, commander of the UN civilian police in Pakrac, who stressed that the arrest was legal and that the arrested person had been warned to stay on his side of the checkpoint.

As we are sending this report, negotiations on the exchange of prisoners are still in progress and the arrested policeman from the so-called Krajina is being held by the Croatian police, the UN Protection Force's civilian police, and members of the Canadian batallion.

Muslim Leader Calls for 'Hatred,' 'Rebellion'

LD0901152993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1315 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, January 9 (TANJUG)—Leader of the Moslem community in the Croatian capital of Zagreb Imam Mustafa Ceric has publicly called on Moslems in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now comprising the republics of Serbia and Montenegro) to demonstrate hatred towards Christian Orthodox Serbs and launch an armed rebellion in that country, writes the Belgrade daily POLITIKA on Saturday [9 January]. "Our message to Moslems in (Serbia's southern province of) Kosovo and the region of Sandzak (in the south-west) and in (the former Yugoslav republic of) Macedonia is that they should expect nothing from the United Nations and the international community and prepare to defend their faith and honour," said Imam Ceric at a press conference in Zagreb. Ceric said he would advocate hatred for the Orthodox Serbs in his prayers and sermons, and added that "those who fail to obey will be damned for good."

The war-mongering press conference took place just before the resumption of the Geneva peace talks on the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The republic has been the scene of a fierce civil, religious and ethnic war between local Moslems, Serbs and Croats as a result of their differences over its future organization.

The Bosnian Moslem leadership is trying to create a first Islamic state in the heart of Europe, which Alija Izetbegovic announced in his "Islamic declaration" in early 1980's. In a recent interview to the Zagreb weekly GLOBUS, Ceric admitted that he was an "Islamic Fundamentalist" and said he regretted that this was not the case with all Bosnian Moslems.

Election Campaign Begins in Serbian Krajina

LD0801162693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1036 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Knin, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—The election campaign in the Republic of Serbian Krajina [RSK] has begun with the involvement, at the moment, of four political organizations, RSK Vice President Bosko Bozanic told TANJUG today. The largest, he said, is the "original" Serbian Democratic Party [Srpska Demokratska Stranka—SDS] founded by academician Jovan Raskovic. It is now headed by Branko Marjanovic, and it is expected that the party will shortly hold its first pre-election convention. Acting separately is the splinter party of the SDS—the Serbian Democratic Party of Krajina [Srpska Demokratska Stranka Krajine—SDSK] led by Milan Babic, Bozanic said.

The mayor of Knin is not abandoning the political struggle, convinced that he still has a considerable number of followers. Cooperating closely with Babic's party is the Serbian Radical Party [Srpska Radikalna Stranka—SRS] in the RSK, headed by Rade Leskovac. The radicals are currently most active in the campaign and have been encouraged by the success of the like-minded parties in the recent elections in Serbia and Montenegro. Least is known about the Social Democratic Party [Socijaldemokratska Partija—SDP], whose headquarters are in Okucani.

"Until recently there was a moratorium on the work of political organizations in the RSK. I believe that was a mistake because it meant the artificial suppression of the free expression of ideas for the sake of the unity of the Serbian nation in conditions of war," Bozanic stressed.

The Krajina parties are maintaining close ties with parties in Yugoslavia and the Serb Republic [of Bosnia-Hercegovina]. The "original" SDS wants to cooperate with all political parties which are patriotically orientated. Babic's splinter party supports the Democratic Movement of Serbia, while the radicals are naturally most closely linked with the followers of Seselj, Bozanic added.

At the session of the RSK Assembly in Vukovar at the end of September, it was decided that elections for the republican parliament, the president of the RSK, and local government bodies should be held by the end of last year, but they were postponed until 28 March 1993.

Christian Democrats Propose Unification of Parties

93BA0423A Ljubljana DNEVNIK in Slovene 18 Dec 92 p 3

[Article by Sonja H. Vogric: "Initiative for an All-Slovene Party"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 18 Dec—The National Democrats, who received too few votes in the elections (2.35 percent) to get into parliament, are extremely enthusiastic about the initiative from the Slovene Christian Democrats' [SKD] council to have the SKD, the SLS [Slovene People's Party], the NDS [National Democratic Party], and the GS [Greens of Slovenia] merge into a single right-of-center party. They have not yet made any concrete decisions on this, but it is by far the best solution for them in comparison with the two other possibilities—joining one of the parliamentary parties, or independent activity (outside parliament) at least until the local elections. In doing so, they would like to preserve their legal and organizational independence in these alliances, and if possible political autonomy as well.

At yesterday's first post-election NDS press conference, its representatives assessed the causes that led to the party's failure in the elections, as a result of which the party's leadership also resigned. Dr. Rajko Pirnat primarily blames their overestimation or underestimation of certain facts for this. Thus, for example, they gave too little consideration to the shift of the entire electorate to the left, which, according to him, is characteristic of all European post-socialist states. Along with overestimating the number of votes that they would receive from the dispossessed, they also miscalculated in estimating how large a part of the electorate leaned toward moderate interests. He also added that they had expected too naively that people would not vote against those (primarily the former Demos parties) who had redirected the course of Slovene history, and the right center also lost the elections because of its fragmentation, while the left knew how to unite better and succeeded in doing so. According to Anton Tomazic (head of the campaign headquarters), they were also seriously shortchanged because the government, before the elections, did not pay them the difference in money, as a result of which they were shortchanged 1.5 million tolars. Alenka Zagar-Slana assessed the primarily positive experiences from the presidential campaign. The party will also prepare a detailed analysis of all this, and is planning a special congress at the end of February, at which a new leadership is also to be elected. Until then, the former leadership, which has resigned anyway, will still have full powers.

At the end of the press conference, Peter Volasko explained in more detail the proposal from Young Initiative [MLIN] for merging the right-of-center parties into an all-Slovene people's party, a proposal addressed to the SKD and the SLS; the party would also include the NDS and similar parties with a populist orientation. They would thus form the strongest parliamentary party, and take over the position of prime minister-designate and the initiative for putting together a right-of-center government. As Peter Volasko stated, he has already talked about this with representatives of the younger generation in the SKD and the SLS, who are quite favorable toward this idea. Specific talks on this will start at the beginning of next year, and if the senior portion of the party is not too enthusiastic about it, it may happen that the younger people may united into an all-Slovene young people's party.

Liberals, Christians Still Apart on Key Issues

AU0801183993 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpts] After yesterday's two-hour meeting between the Liberal Democrats and Christian Democrats, the fate of the so-called grand coalition is not the slightest bit more certain than it was before the meeting. Everything is still up in the air, as both parties are sticking to their own regarding key issues, said representatives of the Christian Democrats at today's news conference. Gojko Brvar reports:

[Begin recording] If one, however, reads between the lines of what was said, then the situation is not exactly the same as it was before. If nothing else, there is a meeting of the Christian Democrats' council scheduled for 13 January at which, according to Edvard Stanic, secretary general of the Christian Democrats, the council is going to acquaint itself in detail with talks with Drnovsek's party. Another such signal was a remark uttered in passing—namely that various other coalition models were examined at the meeting, although no final formula was agreed upon, and finally, the third statement that none of the sides wishes to polarize the Slovene political scene.

To capture the vagueness of the political language, all of the above could be summarized in one sentence: The two parties were not able to draw closer, but yet the doors are not completely closed either. There is a small hint that the doors are slightly open and the crack is now somewhat wider. [passage omitted]

The Christian Democrats find the proposal of a center-right coalition by the Slovene People's Party interesting, but believe that the proposal should be held until the voting on Drnovsek's prime ministership. Only then would it be the right time for speculation about a new coalition. The party believes that it would follow a general parliamentary logic if a new coalition were to be compiled by the second strongest party in the State Chamber—the Christian Democratic Party. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Federal

U.S. Planes Reportedly To Fly in Belgrade Airspace

LD0801215193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2033 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—Fighter planes from the U.S. aircraft carrier Kennedy, currently in the Adriatic, will fly in the Belgrade flight control zone from tomorrow to 15 January, TANJUG has learned from well-informed sources in Belgrade.

It has been unofficially learned that the Americans have informed the Yugoslav authorities about these flights, as well as about some other flights, which will be carried out at the end of this and next month. However, it is not clear whether the U.S. planes from the Kennedy will enter the Yugoslav airspace and whether the U.S. announcement implies this. [passage omitted].

According to reliable sources, the U.S. announcement of these flights is a common practice, which has already been applied in similar cases.

Gen. Panic on Overflights

LD0901194493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1858 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 9 (TANJUG)—U.S. aircraft on the carrier Kennedy will not violate the air space of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia although they will be entering Belgrade's flight control zone during their flights, the Yugoslav Army chief of staff information bureau said on Saturday [9 January].

The announcement of foreign aircrafts' flights in international air space near other countries' state borders is a good habit and international practice, the chief of staff said.

The U.S. fighter planes are to perform flights from January 9 to 15 and in late January and late February. The carrier Kennedy is in the southern Adriatic.

Belgrade flight control is also responsible for [passage indistinct] part of the [words indistinct] international air space outside Yugoslavia's territorial waters.

The Yugoslav authorities received an announcement, which clearly shows that the U.S. aircraft will fly in international air space and will not enter Yugoslavia's air space.

The announcement said all flights would be completely in keeping with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regulations on flying in international air space, the Yugoslav chief of staff said.

General Panic Cites Ability To Repel Invasion

AU1001210493 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by Radoslav Nikolic]

[Text] The armored-mechanized and artillery-rocket unit of the 1st Army of the Yugoslav Army today carried out its final firing exercise after three months of training. The exercise was attended by many foreign and local journalists. The training of the soldiers, with officers the only professionals in their ranks, was being overseen by Colonel General Zivota Panic, chief of the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army.

The exercise was carried out near Velika Ravna Reka in winter conditions at an altitude of 719 meters. The unit used Nora 152-mm guns, 128-mm Oganj multiple rocket launchers, and the well-known and highly praised T-84 tank.

During the exercise Panic answered questions from the press, which often referred to possible military intervention and the type of attack that could be expected.

[Begin recording] You know what, whatever they decide. Most probably this intervention would initially be from the air and later over land. If we inflict significant losses to them in terms of their aircraft, however—and I am sure that this would be the case because we have a good air defense system—they will cease further operations. Why would the world wage a war now? Why? I do not understand why they would wage war.

They are now exerting a special kind of pressure on our country. They are exerting pressure because of the Geneva conference, for the conference to be accepted. It would be realistic to expect that the intervention will not take place, because the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is an independent, sovereign state. It is not attacking anyone and there are no reasons for them to attack us. All who do will be considered aggressors and the world will condemn them. [end recording]

Speaking on behalf of the Yugoslav Army, Gen. Panic continually stressed that everyone in Yugoslavia was in favor of peace and a peaceful solution to the crisis, but if war did take place, one would have to count on the high morale and outstanding training of the soldiers, on the fact that the Yugoslav Army is new and that it has been cleansed of enemies who betrayed it, and the most modern weapons for defense.

[Begin recording] [Panic] We have a certain number of missile systems [raketni sistem], and we are working on a longer range missile system.

[Unidentified reporter] 1,000 km range?

[Panic] Well, I have already said that certain preparations are being made for missiles of up to 1,000 km. It is very important, and I can tell this to all of you here, that the morale of the Army is so high; I am pleased. It is increasing all the time. [end recording]

After the exercise Panic visited the Ravanica monastery, the memorial of King Lazar.

More Panic Comments on Intervention

LD1001174593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1632 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cuprija, 10 Jan (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Army Chief of Staff Colonel General Zivota Panic and 1st Army commander Colonel General Vladimir Stojanovic and other high-ranking officers of the Yugoslav Army were present today at a regular joint tactical exercise in winter conditions carried out by a number of mechanized, armored, rocket, and infantry units on the hillsides of Kucaj.

Congratulating the participants in the exercise on the skills and knowledge they demonstrated, General Panic said that the exercise has been successful, and added that it could be even better if need be.

General Panic said that he does not expect foreign troops to intervene in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Yugoslavia. If such intervention nevertheless happens, the Yugoslav Army and the Army of the Serbian Republic are capable of repelling it with determination, regardless of whether it comes from the air or by land.

General Panic and his entourage also visited the monastery of Ravanica where he paid tribute to the remains of King Lazar and afterwards lunched with the participants and reporters at the Yugoslav Army's Hall in Cuprija.

The exercise was observed by some 60 domestic and foreign reporters. The units taking part in the exercise, mostly young soldiers from Pozarevac and Kragujevac recruited in October, were led by Colonel Tode Solaja.

Parties Reject National Salvation Government

LD0801123393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1152 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 8 (TANJUG)—Most party leaders have rejected an offer to form a national salvation government, made by Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic in his televised address to the nation on Wednesday [6 January], on the eve of Christian Orthodox Christmas.

Spokesman for Serbia's ruling Socialist Party Ivica Dacic told the Belgrade daily BORBA that "a national salvation government would be no more than a distortion of the parliamentary system, because it is the prevalent practice that governments are formed by the parliamentary majority parties."

In the statement, carried by the daily on Friday [8 January], Dacic said that "the national salvation government is desired by those who cannot save the country and the people, and to whom the people denied confidence in the (December 20) elections."

Serbia, together with Montenegro, forms the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, created after the secession of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia from the original six-unit federation.

Vojislav Seselj, who leads the Serbian Radical Party, the second largest party in the Yugoslav parliament, told the daily that "Cosic is trying to revise the results of the elections ... and is sowing the seed of panic in the Serbian people."

"The politician seized with panic should get out of politics," said Seselj and opined that "it was a big mistake to make Cosic Yugoslav president."

Vojislav Kostunica of the Democratic Party of Serbia told BORBA that "Cosic's offer is well-intentioned, but obviously overdue ... conditions are not right for forming such a government."

Kostunica maintains that, by joining a national salvation government, the Serbian opposition would be "assuming responsibility for the devastating consequences of the policy of others."

Vuk Draskovic of the Serbian Renewal Movement is quoted by BORBA as saying that "Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia need a government of democratic salvation," and criticized Cosic for not having declared the December 20 elections irregular and immediately called new elections.

Matija Beckovic, official of the Serbian Democratic Movement DEPOS, said "it is too late to form a national salvation government, because it is difficult to believe that anybody would now agree to form such a government only in order to share the blame for a policy they opposed," writes BORBA.

"A national salvation government would be the best solution," BORBA quotes Democratic Party Deputy Velimir Simonovic as saying. Simonovic explained that such a government "should comprise people who enjoy the support of the parties, but not necessarily party members."

Novak Kilibarda, who leads the National Party of Montenegro, the biggest Montenegrin opposition party, described Cosic's offer as one of goodwill, but overdue and forced by necessity.

Srdjan Darmanovic of Montenegro's opposition Socialist Party told a press conference on Thursday that his party would not take part in a government that should include parties which had lost the election.

The biggest number of seats in the federal parliament were won by Serbia's ruling Socialist Party, the Serbian Radical Party, DEPOS, and Montenegro's ruling Democratic Party of Socialists.

Cosic: 'High Degree of Accord' at Party Talks

LD0901021693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2141 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—FRY President Dobrica Cosic believes that "a high degree of accord and responsibility in mutual aspirations" was reached during a consultation meeting with the leaders of the parliamentary parties this evening. This was stated by President Cosic's adviser Dragoslav Rancic at a news conference.

According to Rancic, Cosic described the meeting as "rare moments of democratic agreements, which could also lead to a democratic future for our society." [passage omitted]

Radicals Seselj and Radovan Vukcevic walked out at the beginning of the meeting in the Palace of the Federation, after having made a series of accusations against Cosic and after contesting the planned agenda.

Rancic said that during the meeting, the FRY president again noted the huge pressures to which we are exposed as well as everyone's great responsibility, and he quoted Cosic as saying "my responsibility is growing and my rights are being reduced."

Cosic also mentioned his address to the nation made on [Orthodox] Christmas Eve and said that he deliberately spoke so fiercely. "We are a nation that has become used to evil and sanctions, so I am wondering which kind of candle could shed light on us in the darkness," Rancic quoted him as saying.

In addition to Rancic, Vuk Draskovic, Dragoljub Micunovic, and Srdjan Darmanovic also voiced their impressions about the meeting at a news conference, while Milomir Minic [of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia] made a brief statement for journalists in the hall of the Palace. Minic was of the opinion that the Geneva negotiations fall under the competence of the Federal Government and the assembly.

According to him, in expressing their opinions on the Bosnian crisis the participants in the meeting agreed that the main goal is to restore peace. Asked whether the Serbian president will go to Geneva, Minic said that this question should be addressed to Slobodan Milosevic.

Draskovic believes that no one has the right to subordinate the fate of the nation in Bosnia to any political goal or to hold the entire Serbian nation hostage. "The Serb nation in Bosnia has no greater human, religious, or any other interest than to end the war, and all of us agreed on that this evening," Draskovic said.

He noted that all participants, except the chairman of the Serbian Radical Party [Vojislav Seselj], understand how dramatic the situation is and the fact that these are—as he put it—the critical days and critical hours. The Serb side cannot be satisfied with the Geneva proposal, but neither can the Croatian and Muslim, Draskovic said. He added: "It would be excellent if we managed to secure corridors linking the provinces with a Serb majority."

Micunovic said: "We cannot win a war against the United Nations; our only task, therefore, is to win peace." The leader of the Democratic Party believes that what was offered in the Geneva proposals was not satisfactory and was much less than for what they had hoped. But, he added, it is still better and more than what we had been afraid of, and are still afraid of—that we will not restore peace, and that we will lose everything.

Micunovic said there were no questions of capitulation but of efforts to win peace because, he stressed, one must be capable of winning peace. Micunovic believes that it would be irresponsible to auction patriotism now and that the greatest patriot is the one who can explain to the people that what is being offered is after all "something," and it is not a defeat.

Darmanovic said Montenegro cannot be "a hostage for the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina and for Radovan Karadzic" and that his party will support any proposal which removes the military threat from Serbia and Montenegro. "If we repeat the policy of constant refusals only to accept less favorable solutions later, the border will once again be crossed, there will be no more new proposals, and a military intervention will be launched," Darmanovic said.

It was said at the news conference that the other item on the agenda—the proposal to form a coalition government of national salvation—had not been discussed this evening because there was no time for it. It might be better that this important question was postponed so we can discuss it soberly, Micunovic said.

He noted that arguments like issues concerning the Geneva negotiations should not be discussed at consultation meetings like the one held this evening but in the Federal Assembly are incomprehensible. As he said, the president has the right to do this, and it is perfectly normal for him to consult with the parliamentary parties.

Seselj Walks Out of Meeting

LD0801215893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1724 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—Vojislav Seselj, leader of the Serbian Radical Party [SRS], stated today that he and Radovan Vukcevic, SRS representative from Montenegro, walked out of a meeting in the Palace of the Federation today because of a conflict with Dobrica Cosic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

President Cosic had invited leaders of all parties represented in the Chamber of Citizens of the Federal Assembly to talks at 1700 regarding the second round of the Geneva negotiations and the path toward forming the federal government.

Seselj told journalists that he asked the president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that discussion of the second round of the Geneva negotiations primarily be conducted in the federal parliament, as envisaged in the Constitution.

Dragoslav Rancic, media adviser to the president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, informed journalists that stenographic notes from the beginning of the meeting with the president of the republic, which began at 1700 sharp, will be made available to journalists later.

Officials Comment After Meeting

AU0801223593 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Our correspondent Vladimir Nikolic sent a report after the consultative meeting ended in the Palace of the

Federation. The news conference has also just ended at which President Cosic's adviser Dragoslav Rancic, Depos representative Vuk Draskovic, Democratic Party chairman Dragoljub Micunovic, and Srdjan Darmanovic, representative of the Socialist Party of Montenegro, took part. Milomir Minic, chairman of the main committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia, also made a statement to the journalists:

[Begin Nikolic recording] After the end of the consultative meeting of President Dobrica Cosic with political party leaders in the Palace of the Federation, Milomir Minic made a statement to the journalists saying that the Socialist Party of Serbia is of the opinion that these questions should be discussed by the Federal Assembly, as they are in its jurisdiction. In response to the question of whether Slobodan Milosevic will travel to Geneva, Minic said that he does not know and that according to the Constitution, foreign policy is within the jurisdiction of the Assembly and Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Speaking at the news conference held after the consultative meeting, President Cosic's adviser Dragoslav Rancic said that the president expressed his gratitude for the assessments and speeches during the discussion and ideas, and that he is very relieved after what he heard this evening. According to Rancic, President Cosic stressed the responsibility of everybody, including himself, and pointed out that these are rare moments of democratic talks, something that brings about hope for a democratic future.

Vuk Draskovic said that, except for the president of the Serbian Radical Party, who did not want to understand anything, there was not a single person in the hall who failed to understand the drama of the moment. Nobody has the right to subordinate the fate of Bosnia-Hercegovina to any political aim and hold hostage the Serbian and other peoples in this former Yugoslav republic. Draskovic pointed out that all peoples in Bosnia have no greater interest than the end of war. He stressed that the stands of the Socialist Party of Serbia are known, and they are striving for peace.

Dragoljub Micunovic pointed out that peace is the only solution. What is involved is not a capitulation of any kind. What was offered in Geneva is certainly not satisfactory, Micunovic said, but it is certainly better and more than what we are afraid of—that is, losing everything. It is necessary to think that these solutions are not perminent, but that they are only a part of agreements that are going to continue. Micunovic pointed out that the greatest patriot is a person who will be able to explain to the people that this is also something, and that it is not a defeat. It is important for all politicians to be honest and to publicly express their stance now and not to state their opinion after the (?battle).

In Srdjan Darmanovic's opinion, one should not reject offered solutions, which were always followed by ones with graver consequences.

Finally, one should say that, although it had been announced, the consultative meeting this evening did not touch upon the founding of a concentration [koncentracioni] government. [end recording]

Coordination Council Meets on Bosnia Crisis

LD0901223493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2054 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Jan (TANJUG)—All participants in today's session of the Council for the Coordination of the Standpoints on the State Policy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia agreed that everything should be done in order to establish a just and permanent peace on the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. This was stated at the end of the session held behind closed doors.

At the meeting of the Council it was agreed that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic should be included in the delegation for the Geneva conference, headed by Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic.

Besides the Council members, the meeting, which lasted more than six hours, was attended by Radovan Karadzic, Nikola Koljevic, Momcilo Krajisnik, and Mile Paspalj, representatives of the Serb Republic and the Republic of Serb Krajina.

At the end of the meeting Dragoslav Rancic, the Yugoslav president's press representative, informed journalists that the second round of the Geneva negotiations would begin on Monday [11 January] and not tomorrow as planned. Rancic also gave correspondents a list of Geneva-bound passengers.

The FRY will be represented by President Cosic, Deputy Prime Minister Radoje Kontic, Foreign Minister Ilija Djukic, Minister of Internal Affairs Pavle Bulatovic, presidential special adviser Svetozar Stojanovic, General Zivota Panic, and adviser Petar Vajovic.

In the FRY delegation Serbia will be represented by its President Slobodan Milosevic and Serbian Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic. Montenegro will be represented by its President Momir Bulatovic and Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic.

The Serb Republic's delegation will consist of President Radovan Karadzic, Vice President Nikola Koljevic, People's Assembly president Momcilo Krajisnik, Lieutenant Colonel General Ratko Mladic, and Col. Zdravko Tolimir.

The Republic of Serb Krajina's delegation will consist of Assembly president Mile Paspalj, Prime Minister Zdravko Zecevic, Slobodan Jarcevic, Dusan Starcevic, and Boris Martinovic.

At the end of the session Yugoslav Foreign Minister Ilija Djukic expressed his satisfaction with the results of today's talks in the Palace of the Federation, and optimism before

the second round of the Geneva conference, stressing that this opinion was shared by other participants in the session.

Serb Republic President Radovan Karadzic reproached Alija Izetbegovic for "blackmailing the Geneva meeting" and rejecting talks because of the murder of Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic. Karadzic stressed that the Serb side has launched a thorough investigation of this incident.

"Peace in Bosnia must be unconditional and it must be oriented toward a political solution. The war must end, and if Croats and Muslims want this we could consider the war finished," Karadzic concluded.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic left the session two hours before it ended, but Minister Djukic said that "this had nothing to do with the session continuing after his departure." He explained that the Serbian president has other responsibilities, and stressed that "everything Milosevic said up to the point of his departure was taken into account."

Commentator Assesses Prospects for Geneva Talks

AU0901171793 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Commentary by Slavoljub Susic]

[Text] Prior to tomorrow's continuation of the Geneva talks on the future of Bosnia-Hercegovina, many analysts are trying to answer the main question: Will the top political and military representatives of the Muslim, Serbian, and Croatian ethnic communities use the last chance offered to them by the world and stop the hostilities, or will they continue the war regardless of consequences? Here is a military-political commentary by Slavoljub Susic:

[Susic] It is indisputable that the ending of the interethnic and religious war in the former Bosnia-Hercegovina primarily depends on the sides that are directly involved in the armed conflict, but it also depends on many outside factors that are involved in one way or another in the general, dramatic events in that region in the pursuit of their own interests.

Therefore, we are talking about a multilayered conflict, something that could clearly be seen from a more careful analysis of the draft documents that were discussed during the negotiations in the Palace of Nations in Geneva last Saturday [2 January]. They contain the problems of three complex spheres that have been fought over for some time: geopolitical, constitutional-legal, and military-strategic problems.

The first two were discussed by politicians of all three warring sides under the mediation of the cochairmen of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and David Owen. They were also joined by Presidents of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia, Dobrica Cosic and Franjo Tudjman respectively. The press carried the maps of the territorial division into 10 provinces, and the framework of the future constitutional organization of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which were proposed by Vance and Owen.

Their effort was praised by the participants in the meeting, but the solutions that they offered were not acceptable to all. Without a compromise about these strategic issues in the political and diplomatic sphere, the military experts, who worked in a separate group under the chairmanship of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] chief commander General Satish Nambiar, could not finalize their part of the job, either.

However, their group, in whose work military experts from Yugoslavia and Croatia also took part, has already marked the main problems in this domain that should be placed in the single package of the expected agreement. Measures concerning the unconditional end to hostilities in the entire Bosnia-Hercegovina are first. This is followed by the issues concerning the restoration of infrastructure. Power stations, transformer stations, gas pipes, bridges, and water supply would be given priority.

Particular attention is devoted to opening the so-called blue routes for the safe travel of people and transportation of goods around Sarajevo and other regions throughout the former republic. The separation of forces is also stressed as an important element for the cessation of hostilities. Specific steps are envisaged for this: a cease-fire, a temporary freeze of the military situation, an end to offensive actions and advances, ban on the deployment of fresh forces and arms, and the withdrawal of heavy arms outside their range, according to the experiences of numerous local wars in the last few decades.

Military strategists are also expected to propose measures for the demilitarization of the town of Sarajevo, methods to control outside borders of Bosnia-Hercegovina, deadlines for the withdrawal of the forces to their parent provinces, and finally measures for effective control of the agreements that are reached.

The above-mentioned activities and measures would only make sense if they are accepted as the equally binding obligation by all warring sides. This would ensure that none of them would achieve strategic advantage, something that could tempt them to do something else by force.

Considering the complexity of the problem that should be solved within a relatively short period of time, and the divergence of the starting positions of the negotiators, not many people are prepared to predict the final outcome of the second round of Geneva talks scheduled for tomorrow.

One thing is certain, however. The permanent and just solution cannot be achieved through shortcuts and at the expense of other peoples, as has been attempted by Alija Izetbegovic, nor with threats and ultimatums, which the creators of the new world order have been issuing only to the Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina and their parent country, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Cosic Receives Warning From EC President

LD0901150793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1304 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 9 Jan (TANJUG)—In the Palace of the Federation, FRY President Dobrica Cosic today received Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, whose country holds the presidency of the EC.

After an hour and a half of talks, Danish minister Jensen and the Yugoslav president's special adviser, Dragoslav Rancic, gave statements to journalists.

Rancic conveyed the stand that Cosic had presented to Jensen that there is no war-or-peace dilemma, that Yugoslavia is for peace. As far as the Geneva talks are concerned, Cosic said that peace cannot be achieved by ultimatums and diktats, but by agreement, tolerance, and compromise. The Yugoslav president stressed, therefore, in his talks with Jensen, that it may happen that a temporary imposed peace is concluded, only to develop later into a permanent civil war, Rancic said.

Jensen said that on behalf of the EC he conveyed a message to the president of the FRY in anticipation of the outcome of the Geneva talks. Yugoslavia will be faced with the possibility of either accepting the peace agreement in Geneva or will be "totally isolated" from Europe—politically, economically, and culturally, Jensen said. [passage omitted]

Asked whether the Muslim side in Bosnia is prepared to accept the Vance-Owen peace proposal, Jensen said that during his visit to Sarajevo yesterday he had "appealed to the Bosnian Government" to accept the plan. Jensen said of their stand that the Bosnian Government was "skeptical" and "under pressure."

Asked whether he thought that military intervention was inevitable, the Danish minister said that he did not know "whether this would happen."

"Military intervention may happen, but I sincerely hope that it will not." I do not believe that this is the solution, he added, it will bring far greater suffering for the innocent civilian population. Jensen concluded that a political solution is the only way, because that is "the only way leading to coexistence."

Dragoslav Rancic, special adviser to the Yugoslav president, briefed the journalists on the most important points raised during the meeting between Cosic and Danish minister Jensen.

Cosic drew attention to the fact that it was vital to better understand the motives behind the civil war in Bosnia-Hercegovina since, in his opinion, these motives were not sufficiently understood by the EC. In Bosnia, it is neither a question of Serb aggression or of the aggression of the FRY, but of a domestic and very complex religious, ethnic, and national war, said the Yugoslav president.

Jensen, however, said he could not accept the claim about it being a domestic conflict and he appealed for influence to be used on Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina so that peace can be given a chance in Geneva, Rancic said.

During his meeting with Cosic, Jensen said nothing could be solved by military intervention and that Yugoslavia would face total isolation if a peace agreement was not reached in Geneva.

Cosic also told Jensen that both time and patience were needed to achieve peace, that without truth there could be no justice and law, and consequently no peace. In the opinion of the Danish minister, however, the EC has already spent a great deal of time trying to resolve the crisis, the time which the Serbs used to consolidate their forces, said Rancic.

Jensen also warned Cosic that Yugoslavia would be told about the EC stand that time had run out and that it should make its choice in Geneva or risk total isolation, said Rancic. Jensen told Cosic that—should the Geneva talks fail—the issue of total isolation would be placed on the agenda of an EC session.

Should this happen, said the Danish minister, the EC would do everything in its power to ensure that economic blockade and sanctions were total, said Rancic.

The meeting between Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic and the Danish foreign minister was attended by Yugoslav Foreign Minister Ilija Djukic.

Serbia

Milosevic, Jensen Discuss Bosnian Situation

LD0901184993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1416 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Jan (TANJUG)—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic today received Elleman Jensen, chairman of the EC Council of Ministers and Danish foreign minister.

The cabinet of the Serbian president reported that during a frank and open meeting the two sides exchanged views on current issues concerning political means of resolving the crisis and on peace and stability in the region.

They assessed the continuation of the Geneva talks as a step toward ending the Yugoslav crisis and establishing peace in Bosnia- Hercegovina.

Since the very beginning, the Republic of Serbia has been urging an immediate and unconditional end to all hostilities and a tripartite agreement on the basis of equality, equal respect, and protection of the rights and interests of all three constituent nations in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Serbia believes that this is the best approach toward resolving the crisis, and that on this basis a way out of the civil war in the region can be found.

Milosevic and Jensen drew attention to the fact that the international community made a serious mistake by prematurely recognizing Bosnia-Hercegovina, which resulted in a civil war with inconceivable consequences. The EC and other international factors—through their one-sided

policy and the application of dual standards in their stands on the Yugoslav crisis—have placed the Serb people in Bosnia-Hercegovina in an unequal position, denying their right to self-determination. Such a policy rewarded secession and punished loyalty to one's own state, contrary to international law and CSCE documents.

Serbia will uphold all agreements reached jointly by representatives of all three constituent nations, with the aim of ensuring full protection for their national rights and interests. During the talks it was stressed that threats of military intervention directed against the Serb nation in Bosnia do not contribute toward the establishment of peace and stability in this area.

The Republic of Serbia supports equality of the states and nations and it is against the policy of dictate. Serbia is open for cooperation based on mutual respect and noninterference in its internal affairs. It is in the interest of the Republic of Serbia that, based on truth, an objective image of its policy is presented, which would secure its treatment on an equal footing. Regarding reports of numerous international and other missions that have examined the situation, reasons, and consequences of the Yugoslav crisis, Serbia expects that the international community will receive unbiased information and that these reports will contribute to the elimination of false accusations against the Republic of Serbia.

In accordance with vital state and national interests, the Republic of Serbia will continue conducting its policy of peace and also resolutely oppose all attempts to impose somebody else's will—the policy of force and pressure.

The situation in Kosovo and Metohija was also discussed. It was stressed that Kosovo was peaceful and that peace is the greatest interest of all Serbian citizens. In connection with this, it was pointed out that the separatism in Kosovo represents the only real threat for peace and stability in this province.

Concluding the talks, Danish Foreign Minister Jensen, acting in his capacity as chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, presented to the Serbian president with an official invitation to attend the forthcoming meeting of the Geneva conference as a contribution to its success.

Also taking part in today's talks was Serbian Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic.

SPS Official Deems Cosic Address 'Inadequate'

AU0801183393 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] According to the latest results received by the City Committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia after the second round of elections, the Socialists have only confirmed their victory of 20 December, it was said at a news conference that also touched upon the address to the nation given by Dobrica Cosic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the day before yesterday. Here is a report by Katarina Andric:

[Begin recording] The Socialist Party of Serbia is a leading political force in Belgrade today, Nebojsa Covic, chairman of the City Committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia, assessed. The results of the elections have confirmed that this was the exclusive will of the citizens of Belgrade, Covic pointed out. Out of 110 seats in the City Assembly, the Socialists received 60; Depos, 18; the Serbian Radical Party, 9; and the Democratic Party, 8 seats. Out of 804 seats in communal assemblies, the Socialists won 384; Depos, 237; the Serbian Radical Party, 61; the Democratic Party, 79; and other parties, 29 seats. One should add here that the results are still not known for 14 electoral units in Belgrade. In six electoral units, the voting will be repeated completely and in eight electoral units, voting will be repeated in one polling station each.

We are pleased with the electoral results because we have received support from our fellow citizens for our further work, Covic said and added that this does not mean that we are not going to carry out some organizational and cadre changes with a view to functioning as successfully as possible.

Covic deemed the address to the nation that Dobrica Cosic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, gave the day before yesterday to be inadequate at this moment and added the following:

[Covic] It is also not clear to me [words indistinct] two options are set on the basis of that statement: One option is that we should capitulate and the other one is war. Not for a moment was I able to see whether this was Mr. Cosic's personal opinion, an ultimatum set by the world, or, that this has virtually been proposed or agreed upon (?with) him and the world. (?However), what is involved is a very difficult, specific, and complex moment for the entire people, for the entire Yugoslavia, and there should no longer be any political secrets and games.

[Andric] In Covic's opinion, Cosic would have to come before the people with real facts about what the world wants from us and the people themselves should decide what is to be done. [end recording]

Democratic Party Names Assembly Deputies

LD1001200993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1652 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Belgrade, 10 January (TANJUG)—At a session today the main committee of the Democratic Party of Serbia named deputies for 18 seats which the party won at the elections for the Serbian Assembly within the Democratic Movement of Serbia electoral list.

The Democratic Party's deputies are: Vojislav Kostunica, Mirko Petrovic, Drasko Petrovic, Dragan Radulovic, Nebojsa Jankovic, Mihajlo Kovac, Dusan Vukajlovic, Vladeta Jankovic, Radoslav Stojanovic, Vladimir Vojinovic, Vladan Batic, Rade Veselinovic, Dragisa Bozic, Djoko Tripkovic, Dragoljub Popovic, Ljubisa Vucic, Dusan Marjanovic, and Tihomir Milosevic.

The main committee also appointed the party's new executive committee. Mirko Petrovic was again appointed chairman of the executive committee, and Marko Jankovic and Zoran Sami were appointed vice chairmen.

Macedonia

President Rejects Mitterrand Proposal on Name

LD0901170393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1632 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Skopje, 9 Jan (TANJUG)—Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov described French President Mitterrand's proposal for a solution to the problem of Macedonian recognition as "unnecessary." In a letter to the government in Paris and to the United Nations, Gligorov stresses that a year ago, Badinter's commission assessed that Macedonia meets all conditions for international recognition.

As announced by the office of the Macedonian president, last night Gligorov received a letter from French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas explaining the French president's initiative. Mitterrand advocated the formation of an international tribunal, which would iron out the differences between Skopje and Athens about Macedonia's name.

In an interview on Macedonian radio today, Gligorov reiterated that there are no serious reasons for repeated arbitration.

Greek Aircraft Reportedly Violates Airspace

LD1001212993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2018 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Skopje, 10 Jan (TANJUG)—Macedonian television reported tonight, citing its correspondent in Djevdjelija, that today at about noon a Greek military aircraft violated "Macedonia's airspace" over the Djevdjelija area.

It was impossible tonight to obtain any confirmation of this report from official bodies in Skopje. Nor has there been any reaction to this incident.

According to Macedonian television, the Greek aircraft penetrated three kilometers into Macedonian territory.

Status of Serbs in Macedonia Discussed

LD1001224193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1646 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Skopje, 10 Jan (TANJUG)—Macedonian TV today showed an interview with Dragoljub Novakovic, secretary of the Association of Serbs and Montenegrins in Macedonia, and Borivoje Ristic, president of the Democratic Party of Serbs of Macedonia. Topics discussed included the open issue of the status of Serbs and Montenegrins in Macedonia, education in their mother tongue, respect for their national identity, and religious freedoms. Special emphasis was placed on the fact that unlike other national communities in the republic, the Serbs are not even mentioned in Macedonia's constitution.

According to the association's secretary, Novakovic, his organization has so far sent four letters to the republic's Education Ministry, drawing attention to the problems in primary education in the Serbian language. However, the ministry has so far not had the decency to respond to the letters.

Macedonian Radio and Television has not yet replied positively to the demands of the Serbs and Montenegrins that programs be introduced in the Serbian language, since there are already programs in the Albanian, Turkish, Tzintzar, and Romany languages, as it finds an excuse in its lack of technical and personnel resources. In Novakovic's words, it is odd that radio and television has enough technical resources for the republic's national communities which are smaller than the Serbian community. As far as the question of personnel is concerned, there are enough Serbian employees in this very radio and television to make it feasible to set up a separate Serbian television.

Reflecting on a New Year incident in the Serbian village of Kuceviste between the police and young people, Borivoje Ristic, president of the Democratic Party of Serbs in Macedonia, said among other things that the current authorities in Macedonia do not take into account in the least the youth and their problems and needs, and that young people are left to their own devices.

At the end of his 30-minute talk the secretary of the association wished in Serbian all Macedonia's citizens, particularly the Serbian people, a happy new year.

Residents Face Further Power Restrictions

LD1001134693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1252 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Skopje, 10 Jan (TANJUG)—The supply of electricity in Macedonia is becoming increasingly critical every day and further restrictions had to be introduced last night. Consumers will have to face power cuts every third day for the duration of 14 hours each time. Power cuts in Skopje will be slightly shorter in duration—up to 10 hours. [passage omitted]

Nordic Military Chief Foresees Successful Mission

AU0801162993 Paris AFP in English 1620 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Skopje, Macedonia, Jan 8 (AFP)—The commander of a Scandinavian battalion due to deploy in Macedonia in mid-February, General Saemark Thompsen, arrived here on Friday [8 January] and forecast success for his mission to keep watch along the borders with Serbia and Albania.

Thompsen, accompanied by 18 top U.N. civilian and military officials, went into talks with the government and Defence Ministry officials on where his 700 men will be stationed.

The Macedonian authorities, still awaiting international recognition of Macedonia's independence, have requested

the presence of troops from the U.N. Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia as a way of preventing conflict elsewhere spreading here.

Macedonia's northern border adjoins Serbia and the Albanian-dominated province of Kosovo, and Albania proper lies to the west. There are fears Macedonia would be dragged into war if Serbian forces attack in Kosovo and Albania tries to intervene.

Thompsen said he expected a successful mission because the government had invited the battalion in, which augured well for cooperation. The Nordic troops will replace a first contingent of 140 Canadian soldiers who began deploying on Thursday [7 January].

Communists Press for Campaign To Win Recognition

LD0801145693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1149 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Skopje, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—The League of Communists of Macedonia-Movement for Yugoslavia [SKM-PJ] is calling for an offensive by Macedonian diplomats to win international recognition for Macedonia and the republic's admission to the UN. In a statement released today the Macedonian communists propose that the large number of well-known Macedonian diplomats, who made their careers in the former Yugoslavia, including Dimce Belovski and Lazar Mojsov, should be included in the efforts aimed at international recognition. The former was once SFRY ambassador in Washington and the latter was SFRY ambassador to the UN and chairman of the UN General Assembly, as well as Yugoslav foreign minister.

The SKM-PJ, the statement says, sees the French initiative for international arbitration in the conflict between Macedonia and Greece over the name Macedonia as an attempt to delay international recognition and secure an "international godfather" for this republic.

Montenegro

Bulatovic Reelected in 'Landslide Victory'

LD1101091793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0902 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Podgorica, January 11 (TANJUG)—Momir Bulatovic (36), the president of the Yugoslav Republic of Montenegro, was re-elected to the post after a landslide victory over his rival Branko Kostic in the presidential election on Sunday [10 January].

Bulatovic, the candidate of the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) of Montenegro, won 73,633 votes and Kostic, a candidate of a group of citizens and veterans of the 1991/92 war, won 40,034 votes, according to initial results presented by the Republican Electoral Commission after processing votes from 342 of the 868 polling stations.

The Republican Electoral Commission said late on Sunday evening that over 50 percent of the electorate turned out for the second round of the presidential election. Final results are to be announced on Monday.

In the first round of the presidential election on December 20 when there were nine candidates, Bulatovic won 42.8 and Kostic 23.7 percent of the votes.

Prior to his departure for Geneva to attend talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina, Bulatovic said in his first statement since the preliminary results were announced that the people's trust in him would best be proved "if we contribute to finding a generally acceptable solution (to the crisis) in Bosnia-Hercegovina which would restore peace in neighbouring regions and enable the lifting of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia."

Bulatovic's rival Kostic was also a member of the ruling DPS, but was expelled after deciding to run for the post of president in the December 20 election.

Kostic was also a member and vice-president of the presidency of the former Yugoslavia. When presidency members from the former republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Hercegovina walked-out, Kostic as the vice-president headed the collective head of state of the former federation.

Political Parties React to Cosic Address

LD0801173293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1018 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Podgorica, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—Svetozar Marovic, secretary general of the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists, said in a statement for Podgorica's POBJEDA daily today that "Mr. Cosic's address represents the thoughts and words of a concerned, reasonable, and well-intentioned president."

According to Marovic, the elections are over and the winners are known. "But I fear that all of us will suffer a collective defeat if we do not make an effort to understand one another and if we fail to find justification not only for our own mistakes, but also for the weaknesses and shortcomings of others."

According to the Social Democratic Party of Reformists of Montenegro [Socijaldemokratska Partija Reformista Crne Gore], "It is evident that in a narrow vision of his categorically defeated policy, Mr. Cosic is unable to understand facts, even less so comprehend the consequences of his actions. He does not understand that he cannot approach peacemakers and democrats offering them his hand of friendship with such positions and without a single real peacemaker in his team; the only one who shares his views obviously is Franjo Tudjman."

The same party says that the civic opposition parties gave adequate warning of what was happening, what has now been concluded by Cosic, and were calling for peace, "but were condemned by Cosic and his followers."

The Serbian Radical Party in Montenegro says it listened to the address by the president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with concern, and adds that it "does not

understand Mr. Cosic, who presented a series of facts and made accusations at the expense of his own people, thus providing its enemies with arguments to attack us even further."

According to the Serbian Radical Party in Montenegro, if Cosic's initiative to set up a government is accepted "it would mean the devaluation of the election results and of the expressed will of the people."

"Cosic's statement represents the first public admission by the top state leadership of a complete defeat for an old-fashioned, outdated Serbian state and national policy. In this respect, the statement is positive and probably the first to come out with precise contents," Slavko Perovic, chairman of the Montenegro Liberal Alliance [Liberalni Savez Crne Gore], stressed.

He says that "a false dilemma" was caused by the sentence "political and military capitulation or an attack by the world's superpowers." That sentence, Perovic says, reflects all its shallowness, "all that quibbling and calling things by different names."

It is unacceptable, according to Perovic, that Dobrica Cosic mentioned the United States, the United Nations, the EC, and even Mother Russia among the "insane and evil forces."

According to Novak Kilibarda, chairman of the People's Party of Montenegro [Narodna Stranka Crne Gore], "the well-known Dobrica Cosic—a humanist, author, contemplative intellectual, expert on the Serbian mentality, and a wise observer of international political developments—resurfaced in President Cosic's address."

"Unfortunately, all these virtues now lack the seriousness of a statesman's opinion and a defined political attitude. Namely, there is no guidance in Cosic's address which will direct an ordinary citizen of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It would have been better had Mr. Cosic said who is most to blame for this situation, and it would have been better had he said what he should have done personally before the elections. He should have said in concrete terms what he will do now, after the elections," Kilibarda said.

"I have to conclude with regret that my esteemed friend, Cosic, as president of the republic, voiced his opinions more when lecturing on civic moral virtues and democratic policy than making important state moves," Kilibarda said.

Assembly President Receives Ukrainian Legislators

LD1001170793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1625 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Podgorica, 10 Jan (TANJUG)—Montenegrin Assembly President Risto Vukcevic today received in Podgorica a Ukrainian parliamentary delegation, which is visiting Yugoslavia as a guest of the Braca Karic firm.

In a long conversation, the guests and their host informed each other about the current situation in Yugoslavia and Ukraine, and noted the need to improve economic ties and cultural cooperation.

The Ukrainian parliament members again said that a wrong picture of the events in the territory of the former Yugoslavia has been created in their country, and that after their visit to Serbia and Montenegro they would have an opportunity to brief their government and the Ukrainian people about the true state of affairs.

Kosovo

Serb Police Reportedly Mistreating Citizens

AU0901160293 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1430 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Serbian police, led by Mihic, are mistreating the inhabitants in Peje villages. Serbian armed units raided Luge villages under the pretext of searching for weapons. They raided the home of the Agim Rahmani family from Kosuriq in Peje. They took Mr. Agim's passport. He is temporarily employed in Switzerland. For the same reason, the police arrested 70-year-old Avdi Gashi and Fehmi Gashi, on the pretext that they were allegedly carrying weapons.

Danish Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Pristina

LD0901211693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1938 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Pristina, 9 January (TANJUG)—Milos Simovic, head of the Pristina district, received Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Danish foreign minister and president of the EC Ministerial Council, and and his associates this evening in Pristina.

In talks that lasted 10 minutes, Simovic briefed Jensen about the situation in Kosovo-Metohija, stressing that Kosmet (Kosovo) is the same province as Vojvodina, but the difference is in the fact that elections cannot be held and a provincial parliament cannot be formed in Kosovo because Albanians have boycotted elections four times.

This is Serbia's territory, and its importance for the Serbs equals that of Rome for the Italians, Paris for the French, and London for the English, Simovic added. He recalled that certain countries, especially Germany and Austria, are lending open and permanent support to the Albanian separatist movement which aspires to the Greater Albania. We believe that war cannot break out here unless foreign powers such as the United States and Germany interfere, Simovic stressed.

Expressing thanks for the reception, the Danish minister of foreign affairs said that the European Community is worried by the development of the situation in Kosovo. This is a special area in the center of an unstable region. We hope for a peaceful denouement and support the autonomy of Kosovo within Serbia, and certain special measures which would be suitable for this region, but certainly not separatism, Ellemann-Jensen said.

The delegation, headed by Ellemann-Jensen, arrived in Pristina almost one hour later than planned, which was the reason for such a short meeting with representatives of state bodies in the province. After the talks with Simovic, the Danish foreign minister had a closed-door meeting with representatives of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo [DSK]. We learned that DSK Vice Chairman Fehmi Agani held talks with Jensen.

Crime, Political Rifts Emerging in Republic

LD0701163593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1411 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Report by Djordje Jevtic]

[Text] Pristina, Jan 7 (TANJUG)—Political leaders of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo-Metohija are unremittingly forcing upon them the ideas of "nationwide unity" and secession from Serbia and Yugoslavia, but internal problems, notably rifts between the leaders and widespread crime, increasingly emerge on the surface.

Admittedly, Albanian-language papers write cautiously about it, but the problems are so striking that they can hardly be hidden.

Robbery among secondary-school students has reached such proportions that the alarm was sounded calling on all "subjective forces" to join in a "nationwide action" to fight crime.

Without any evidence, the Albanian-language press tries to blame it on the Serb side and wonders whether the robbers act in collusion with the Serbian police.

However, statements leaking out here and there amount to an indirect admission that the mafia-style acts of robbery are a result of the illusion being propagated by Bujar Bukoshi, the "premier" of the self-styled "Kosovo Government in exile" and other Albanian leaders—that ethnic Albanians have "government of their own."

Thus the paper SHKENDIJA (THE SPARK) writes: "Since we do not recognize alien government (i e., that of the Republic of Serbia) and we have failed to develop government of our own, instances of hooliganism are assuming a different dimension."

The rifts in top political circles affect especially the Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo Albanians. According to first reports, the party's annual assembly last week was successful, but later reports spoke of confusion, quarrels, recriminations and power struggle between two Christian Democratic leaders, Lazer Krasniqi and Engjel Sedaj.

At the moment it is not [words indistinct] the party leader is. Last November Krasniqi was relieved of the post and Sedaj elected acting president of the party. However, a statement after the assembly called Krasniqi number one man. Sedaj denied it, claiming he had learned about the decision from the press.

Press reports claim that a factional strife is going on in the party leadership between members who communicate with their followers from abroad over telefax and telephone, and those who fight for the "general national cause" on the spot.

Accusations of this kind are nothing new and are most often connected with Bukoshi's "government," whose "premier" is lately busy forecasting a war in Kosovo and seeking the blue helmets to forestall it.

Rifts have also hit the so-called government, which was quitted by Ramush Tahiri, one of the founders of the Christian Democratic Party.

Tahiri, believed to be an advocate of a more moderate policy, has said recently "one should keep in mind that war, like peace, depends on two sides."

"Another [word indistinct] to be remembered is that Tudjman's policy has also [words indistinct] to the war in Croatia," [words indistinct]. He noted that "the same could be said of Izetbegovic and his policy and efforts to separate a state according to his ideas and to [words indistinct] the principle of [word indistinct] in the territory of Bosnia."